

LATEX PAINT

How Do You Dispose of Latex Paint?



Latex paint WILL NOT be accepted during Washington County Waste Collections because it is a water-based product and therefore NOT a hazardous waste. However, residents need to diligently dispose of this liquid waste properly because dumped illegally; it can plug septic fields, overload sewage treatment plants, and create other environmental problems. Finding an easy and safe way to dispose of latex paint can be a challenge, especially if you have a large number of cans, so here are some correct disposal methods to consider:

10 CANS OR LESS

- 1. Purchase a commercial paint hardener and follow the label directions. These products can be purchased at hardware stores and home improvement centers. Once hardened, paint can be placed in the trash.*
- 2. Open can lids and expose the paint to sun and warm temperatures. This technique works best in the summer and when small volumes of paint are left in cans. Place the can in the trash after the paint has hardened.*



10 TO 25 CANS

- 3. Line one or two medium-size boxes with thicker sheet plastic. Pour contents of cans into box(es). Add an absorbing agent such as kitty litter, vermiculite, or ground corn cobs. Place the box(es) in a warm area or in the sun and stir frequently until the paint hardens. Toss box(es) in the trash once the mixture is dry. This same technique works with 5-gallon pails instead of boxes.*

MORE THAN 25 CANS

- 4. Follow the technique outlined in step 3, but use a larger number of boxes. You might also contact your local clean sweep site or solid waste/recycling department to see what other options are available in your area. Some local governments offer drop-off services on a per-gallon or per-can basis.*



Unwanted latex paint should first be considered a potential resource.

Properly stored latex paint can be given away to civic organizations or non-profit agencies for use at low income housing projects or as exterior primer coats. Unwanted latex paints can also be reprocessed and brought back to stores as recycled paints. Don't forget that empty, brush-wiped metal cans may be recycled through local programs. For more information contact:



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