



Common Paint Wastes - A Homeowner's Guide

Leftover Paint?

- ◆ Use up leftover paint for touchups, primers, or undercoats;
- ◆ Consolidate partial containers of compatible paints, then use it up; or
- ◆ Take oil-based paint wastes to HazBin, which is for residents of Jefferson County (See WHPP 919).
- ◆ You may dispose of water-based paints in the regular trash, if you follow a few, simple directions.

Latex House Paint Waste

- ◆ Are you sure the paint is waste? Try one of the leftover paint suggestions.
- ◆ Small quantities of paint with no lead or mercury in it can be dried in the can or painted on cardboard or boards, and then disposed of in a covered trashcan. Most paint manufactured after 1991 has no lead or mercury, and may be disposed of in a covered trashcan after it is dried out.
- ◆ Put empty cans and cans containing non-hazardous dried-out paint in the trash with the lids removed.
- ◆ House paint manufactured before 1992 likely contains mercury and should be handled as a hazardous waste. Homeowners may take the paint to HazBin on Grade Lane. If you're not sure that the paint has mercury in it, check the label, or, if the label is unreadable, handle the product as you would a hazardous waste.
- ◆ House paint manufactured before 1978 likely contains lead and should be handled as hazardous waste. Take the paint to HazBin for disposal. If you're not sure the paint contains lead, read the label, or, if the label is unreadable, treat the old paint as a hazardous waste.
- ◆ You may also be able to donate unused latex house paint waste to Habitat for Humanity, or other charitable organizations.

Water-based Specialty Paint

- ◆ Are you sure the paint is a waste? Try one of the leftover paint suggestions first!
- ◆ Acrylic latexes, sign paints, and other water-based specialty paints should be evaluated for their hazardous properties (i.e. lead and mercury). Check the label to see if the paint contains hazardous products. If so, treat the paint as a hazardous material.



Wastewater from Latex Paint Cleanup

- ◆ You can allow wastewater from cleaning latex equipment into the sanitary sewer, but not a storm drain or septic system.
- ◆ You can also reuse your wastewater by allowing solids to settle out and pouring off the water into another container. The latex solids can be allowed to dry out, and managed as latex paint waste. Be sure to label your container clearly as *Latex Wastewater*.

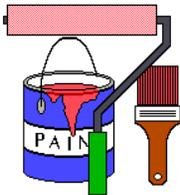
Oil based Paint Waste

- Are you sure the paint is waste?
- Oil-based paints, stains, and thinners, are usually considered hazardous waste. Take the oil-based paint to HazBin for disposal.

Lacquer Thinner or Solvent Waste

- Lacquer thinner and solvents can be distilled and reused, usually through an off-site service like a paint store. Sludge and filters left after distillation must be handled as a hazardous waste.
- A simple way to recycle solvent is to put it in a closed, labeled, compatible container and allow the solids to settle. The cleaner solvent at the top can be poured into another container and reused. You can cut your solvents costs by using this recycled solvent for your initial cleaning of dirty paint brushes, etc., and using a small amount of new solvent for final cleaning.
- Eventually the solvent will become too dirty for reuse, and will need to be disposed of at HazBin. The sludge must also be disposed of at HazBin.

When is a Paint Container Really Empty?



A container is empty when all wastes or contents have been properly removed, leaving less than one inch of waste, or not more than 3% of the container's total capacity inside. The container must also be free from any residual hazardous materials and vapor.

Use Best Management Practices and Good Housekeeping Skills

You can help keep the groundwater safe by using Best Management Practices and good housekeeping skills in managing potential contaminants. If using a contractor for painting, construction, insect control, lawn service, or any other activity that may effect the environment adversely, you can insist that they follow Best Management Practices. Inquire about their use of Best Management Practices before you hire the contractor, and request that they protect the environment!



A publication of the Louisville Water Company
Wellhead Protection Plan, Local Planning Team

For more information about the Wellhead Protection Plan, please contact:

Robert Newman, Wellhead Protection Specialist
Louisville Water Company
550 S. 3rd Street
Louisville, KY 40202
(502) 569-3600, ext. 1809
rnewman@lwcky.com