

## Latex Paint

- Here's how to dispose of latex paint without taking it to a recycling center: Add equal parts cat litter to latex paint in the can. If you have more than a half a can, you can also pour the paint into a lined box or trash can. Then pour in cat litter.

- Stir the cat litter into the paint until it thickens and will not spill. Allow the mixture to sit until dry in a well ventilated area.



- Toss the dried paint in the can into the household garbage. Make sure to remove the lid.

If you don't have much paint left in the can, you can just remove the lid and let the paint dry out on its own. Make sure that it's in a location where small children and pets can't get to it.

There are also commercial paint hardeners for [Latex Paint](#) that you can purchase if you prefer not to use cat litter. Please contact the following stores: Lowe's, Home Depot and Menards to see if this is available. Just follow the manufacturer's instructions.

## Oil-Based Paints

Remove the lid and let the paint air dry in the can. To speed up the process, stir in an absorbent material such as kitty litter, sawdust, or leftover concrete mix.



Never pour oil paint into a drain or into the ground. It is considered hazardous waste, and disposing of it this way is illegal.

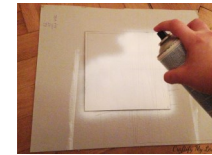
Don't forget to remove the lid before discarding it in the trash!

## Paint Thinners

- Used paint thinners, such as turpentine and mineral spirits can be reused. Pour into a clear glass container and seal with a tight lid. Allow the paint particles to settle to the bottom.
- Pour the clear liquid into the original container for reuse, then dispose of the residue after allowing it to dry.
- Adding an absorbent material such as kitty litter or saw dust will speed up the drying process.

## Spray Paint Cans

Cans of spray paint must be completely emptied and the pressure released before you discard them into the trash. If the can is not empty, spray the remaining contents on cardboard or newspaper.



Once it is dry, you can put the newspaper in the regular trash. The empty spray can goes in the trash as well!

### Interesting Facts About Paint

- Roughly 65 gallons of paint are discarded in the United States each year.
- It takes 570 gallons of paint to cover the exterior of the White House in Washington D.C.
- More than 1.57 billion gallons of paint are sold in the United States each year.
- Paint colors can affect your mood. Cool tones invoke feelings of calm, peace and happiness. Warmer tones can provoke feelings of anger or energy.
- In the United States, lead-based paint was banned for use in residential paints in 1978, but many other countries banned it prior to 1920.

## 7 Things to Know About Paint

1. Spend more for quality.
2. Look at Luster.
3. Choose color wisely.
4. Test paint color before you buy.
5. Use the right equipment.
6. Determine how much paint you will need. Do not over spend!
7. Do the prep work.

Did you know that solvent-based paints have a 15 year shelf life. Latex has a shelf life of 10 years.

How to determine if the paint is still good: Test by stirring and brushing onto newspaper. If there are lumps, the paint is no longer good.

Donate paints you don't want. If you have good paint that you can't use, offer it to family, friends and neighbors, or call a local paint contractor. Some charities may take the paint too, especially those that do work helping the elderly with home renovations.

## Tips for Properly Handling Paint Waste from Your Home

Always work in a well ventilated area and away from children and pets.

**NEVER** work near a source of ignition (open flame, cigarettes, etc.), particularly when handling paints that contain chemical solvent.

**NEVER** mix chemicals such as cleaners, oils, degreasers, etc., with your paint waste.

**NEVER** throw paint waste in a burn pile or burn barrel.

**NEVER** dump liquid paint waste on the ground or down a sewer.



# Paint Disposal

**Richland County  
Solid Waste,  
Recycles!**



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