



Paint, the most common household product that becomes household hazardous waste. Paint contains harmful substances that can be dangerous to our health and the environment if not used, stored, and disposed of properly.

TIPS

When storing paint, make sure lids are on tight. Label the top of each can with the color name and date purchased.

If you feel comfortable holding the can of paint upside down, then it is dry enough to throw away in your trash.



The best way to dispose of paint: use the paint.

Donate Your Unwanted Paint

If you cannot use the paint, try donating to:

- Neighbors & Friends
- Community Organizations & Groups



Latex Paint vs. Oil Based Paint

Latex Paint

(water-based, acrylic, or emulsion paint)

When dry, may be disposed of in your regular trash. Latex paint is **not** accepted at Household Hazardous Waste Collection events.

Oil Based Paint

When dry, may be disposed of in your regular trash. If you are overwhelmed with oil based paint, it is accepted at the County's Household Hazardous Waste Collection event in the spring.



What Not to Do:



Do not pour paint down household or storm drains. Many of the chemicals in paint will not be treated by sewage treatment systems or septic systems.

Do not throw liquid paint in the trash. There is always the possibility that the paint will be released from the can. The paint could then be exposed to certain chemicals and cause spontaneous combustion.



To Determine Your Type of Paint

Find the *Cleanup Instructions* on the label, for:



What to Do:

Solidify, then dispose of paint. Paint is hazardous in its liquid form. If only a small amount of paint is left, remove the lid (outside, with good ventilation) and let dry. The can may be put out for trash disposal.

Solidifying Paint:

1

Pour an absorbent into your paint can.

For large amounts of paint, get a sturdy cardboard box and fill with absorbent material, pour the paint over and let dry. Dispose of this dried mixture with your trash.



2

Allow paint to harden.



3

Throw away in household trash.



Spray Paint Cans

Partially full aerosol spray paint cans are usually oil based, they are accepted at Household Hazardous Waste Collection events.

Empty aerosol paint cans *may* be accepted in your curbside recycling container. Confirm with your municipality or hauler- if they are not included in your recycling program, throw away along with regular household trash.