



Centre Region Recycles

08/26/14

Latex and Oil Based Paint

Special Materials Disposal

Safe Disposal of Latex and Oil Based Paint

According to the US EPA, every year American homeowners throw away 64 million gallons of paint—enough to fill 128 Olympic swimming pools!

The best way to manage all types of paint is to “**use it up, pass it on or dry it out**”. If you must dispose of any leftovers, please ensure the safe and proper handling of your paint.

Cans may be spilled or crushed during the collection process. To avoid costly and difficult cleanups, all paints and stains must be solidified before being placed in the trash. Allow paint to air



dry or mix with a paint hardener. All solidified paints and stains may then be disposed of in your trash.

There are some notable differences in disposing of oil versus latex based paints. Oil based paints *are* considered household hazardous waste (HHW) and must be disposed of accordingly if not dried. Oil based paint is accepted at no charge at Centre County Recycling and Refuse Authority (CCRRA) during their HHW collection each spring.

Latex paints *are not* considered HHW and will not be accepted during HHW collection. If you have a large surplus of liquid latex paint, please call CCRRA at (814) 238-7005 for details on disposal.

See the back for more ideas on how to “**use it up, pass it on or dry it out**”



Contact for more information:

Centre Region Council of Governments
Refuse and Recycling

www.crcog.net/refuse
Phone: (814) 234-7198
Email: recycler@crcog.net



Centre County
Recycling & Refuse Authority

www.centrecountyrecycles.org
Phone: (814) 238-7005
Email: ccrra@centrecountyrecycles.org



State College Borough

www.statecollegepa.us
Phone (814) 234-7135
Email: refuse@statecollegepa.us



Tips for managing latex and oil based paints

BUY ONLY WHAT YOU NEED

It may seem simple, but think before your buy. Measure your walls, and multiply length x height, subtract for doors and windows to estimate the square footage. A gallon will cover about 350 square feet with a single coat of paint.

STORE LEFTOVERS

Proper storage of leftovers ensures that they can be used on future projects. Cover the open can with plastic wrap before putting on the lid. Store the can upside down for an airtight seal. Avoid extreme temperatures. Latex paint may last 10 years and oil based 15 years.

GET CREATIVE

- Add to concrete mix to make colorful stepping stones.
- Give new life to old furniture.
- Add a few tablespoons of powdered grout and make chalkboard paint.
- Paint several mismatched frames or objects to create a unique designer focal point.
- Put some color on your floor. Paint a pattern on tired wood floors or create a floor cloth on canvas.

Search the web for more ideas to use your leftover paint.

REUSE or DONATE

Latex paints can be mixed for reuse. Consider using them as a primer coat or in an area that does not require a decorator color such as a garage. Light paint can also be re-tinted.

If you cannot reuse the paint, donate it to an organization that can. Churches, schools, theatre groups and other charitable organizations such as ReStore may be willing to accept leftover paint for their projects.

You could also offer for sale or free on an online site like *Craigslist* or *Freecycle*.

DRY IT OUT

If all else fails and you must dispose of your leftover paint, be sure to dry it out.



For cans that are less than 1/4 full allow to air dry. Remove the lid and place in a well ventilated place away from pets and children until hardened.

For fuller cans add sawdust, dirt, shredded paper, cat litter, mulch or a commercial paint hardener to the can.

If the can of latex paint is too full to add solidifiers, line a cardboard box with a plastic trash bag. Pour the paint into the box one layer at a time. Add a solidifier between layers. When the paint is dry, tie the trash bag and place in the trash.

Remember this is a last resort. It is better for the environment to reduce the amount you buy and to use any leftovers.

“use it up, pass it on or dry it out”