Dry out your latex paint!

Hazardous waste facilities and the WasteMobile do not accept latex paint.

Research shows that latex paint can safely be put in the garbage for disposal at a landfill, as long as the paint is dried or solidified first. See the other side of this card for easy ways to dry and dispose of latex paint and where to take oil-based paint.

Wet paint can be dangerous.

Do not dump paint onto the ground where it can come into contact with children or pets.

Do not dump paint in or near a storm drain. Whatever washes into a storm drain goes directly into a nearby stream, lake, or wetland untreated. Paint is harmful to fish and other wildlife.

Do not put wet paint in the garbage. It can spill from trucks onto the street and other vehicles.

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If you have leftover paint :

- Save it for touchups or use it as a base coat on a wall.
- Give it to a neighbor, church, community theater, or other group.

The next time you buy paint, remember to ask the sales staff for help in estimating how much you'll need. Buy the least amount for the job.

How to dispose of latex (water-based) paint

With small amounts of leftover latex paint (1 inch or less in the can), remove the lid and let the paint dry out in a well ventilated area. Then, put the can in the garbage. Leave the lid off so your garbage collector will see that the paint is dry. If there is too much paint in the can to dry out on its own, do the following:

1. Make sure the paint can is 1/2 full or less. Pour excess into another container, like an empty paint can, opened milk carton or coffee can. (Save this excess paint for mixing later with kitty litter.)

2. Add clay-based kitty litter until the can is 3/4 full.

3. Stir the paint mixture until very thick. After 10 minutes, if the paint is still runny, add more kitty litter.

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4. Let paint mixture dry in a well-ventilated area, away from kids and pets. It will take about one day for the mixture to harden.

5. When the mixture is solid and no longer runny, put the paint can in the garbage. Leave the lid off the can! Your garbage collector needs to see that the paint is dry.

You can also buy paint hardening products at many paint retail stores

Where to take oil-based paint

Oil-based paint is combustible and should be taken to the Factoria Transfer Station's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility: 13800 SE 32nd St., Bellevue.
Tues-Fri, 8 am – 4 pm and Sat - Sun, 9 am – 5 pm.
For more information call 206-296-4692 or visit www.hazwastehelp.org.

Printed on 100% post-consumer paper with soy-based ink.

Questions about leftover paint?
Call LHWMP at 206-296-4692 or visit
http://www.hazwastehelp.org/HHW/hhw.aspx

Funded by the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County and the Washington State Department of Ecology.

This information is available in alternate formats on request at 425-452-6800 (voice) or 711 (relay).