

Use it up! Dry it up! Pass it on!

2 types of paint sold for home use:

LATEX PAINT (water-based, acrylic paint) can be disposed of in your household trash as long as it is solidified.

OIL-BASED PAINT, (as well as wood finishes, shellacs, varnishes, wood protectors, mildew resistant paints, and "preservative" paints) must all be brought to a household hazardous waste drop-off to be properly disposed of.



How to manage latex paint:

USE IT UP! Small amounts of paint can be mixed with other colors or bulked together and used as a primer coat on jobs where the final finish is not critical.

🔥 Avoid waste at the start, buy only what you need. One gallon of paint will cover between 250 and 350 square feet.

DRY IT UP! Place in a well ventilated location, away from children and animals. Three options:

1. **Air dry.** Allow paint to dry in cans by removing lid and allowing liquids to evaporate. Paint cans should be less than 1/3 full. This can take several weeks. If more than 1/3 full, pour some into coffee can, ice cream bucket, or similar container.
2. **Use a drying agent.** Mix in an absorbent material by the cup full and allow paint to dry. Use cat litter, sawdust, sand or "waste paint hardeners" found at home improvement centers.
3. **Pour thin layers (about 1" of paint) into a cardboard box lined with newspaper.** Allow paint to dry one layer at a time until all paint has hardened. When first layer has hardened, pour in another layer. When you've dried out all paint, put box with your regular trash.

Once paint is thoroughly dry, paint cans may be discarded with your regular trash. Leave lid off can so waste collector can see paint is hardened. Place cans with lids off next to your regular trash. You may place up to four paint cans for collection at one time.

PASS IT ON! Donate nearly full cans of new latex paint to Matthew 25 Ministries (call 793-6256). Community and theater groups may accept unopened cans of paint, especially white.

DO NOT dump paint on ground or down storm drains – it will travel directly to surface and/or ground water.

DO NOT throw liquid paint in regular trash. Leaking paint spills out of waste collection vehicles onto city streets, making a mess that is difficult to clean up.