

Latex Paint Disposal



Board of Supervisors Solid Waste Enforcement MS4 Storm Water Program



Latex Paint is non-hazardous and does not need to wait for a drop-off day, if you take the following precautions to ensure proper disposal. Do not pour down your sinks, central sewer system treatment plants do not treat for the additives, and your septic tanks ability to treat waste could be compromised in the future.

Residents should **DRY OUT** latex paint and stains and put it in the garbage with the lid off, using one of several methods:

- Air:
 - Remove the lid and let the paint dry out in the can
 - Protect from freezing and rain as well as curious children and animals
 - This only works when an inch or less of paint is left in the can and is most effective in the warmer months.
 - If you have more than an inch, you can use a large pan lined with a trash bag to spread out the paint into a thinner layer in order to allow it to dry.
- Cat litter:
 - Mix latex paint with an equal amount of clay-based cat litter
 - Stir in completely and let the paint dry. It takes about 10 minutes for the cat litter to harden.
 - Add more cat litter if the paint is soft or runny after 10 minutes. Repeat until the material is very thick.
 - Sawdust, dirt, and shredded paper can be tried as alternatives to cat litter.
 - If there is not enough room in the paint can to stir in enough cat litter to dry it all out, pour off paint into any plastic or cardboard container that is large enough to hold the material, including a yogurt container, plastic tub, shoebox, or other convenient container.
- Paint hardener:
 - Mix latex paint or stain with commercial paint hardener according to the directions.
 - At the end of that time, paint will have a tacky, oatmeal-like consistency that will not spill out.
- Other ideas of using up latex paint or stains:
 - Use the paint when painting a garage, dog house or use as a primer coat for another painting project.
 - Donate excess paint to a school, theater group or non-profit agency.



Be sure it's latex paint or stain only! Look on the label for the word "latex," or for directions to clean up or thin with water. Once the latex paint has hardened or solidified, place the can with the lid off in your garbage container. The garbage hauler needs to see that the paint has been solidified.

Oil-based paints should be brought to a hazardous waste drop-off day, or a waste disposal company.

For More Information:
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05/17