



HOW TO PROPERLY DISPOSE OF LATEX PAINT

Preventing waste in the first place is always the best and least expensive method of disposal. For all waste items, including leftover latex paint, it is recommended you follow the following hierarchy and proper disposal methods in this order:

REDUCE – Buy only what you need and return unopened cans. If you are at the end of a job and realize you only need a small amount to finish, exchange the unopened larger cans for smaller ones or use up the last inch or two on the bottom of the can.

REUSE – Use leftovers for second coats, touch-ups, painting fences, birdhouses or basements. Old latex paints can be blended together to produce beige or gray. Mixed latex paints can be used for fences, basements, sheds, etc.

RECYCLE – Consider giving leftover paint to a friend, neighbor or small business owner. You could also try donating leftovers to community groups, school and theater groups, churches or similar organizations.

SAFE DISPOSAL STEPS

Once you have pursued all alternatives you may follow the steps below to safely dispose of latex paint with your household garbage:

1. Identify latex paint and open can lids outside or in a well-ventilated area away from pets or children.
2. For small quantities – let paint cans sit with lids off until completely dry and solid. For large quantities – continue on to Step 3.
3. Latex paint can be dried out by placing any type of absorbent material such as clay based kitty litter, sawdust, newspaper or rags into the paint.
4. Stir and add absorbent material as necessary until all paint is completely dry and solid.
5. Place dried paint cans in household trash.



ABOUT LATEX PAINT

Latex paint is NOT hazardous waste and should NOT be taken to any Household Hazardous Waste event in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery Counties or the City of Philadelphia. Latex based paint is comprised mostly of water and has a very low amount of VOCs (solvents) in it. Therefore, once this material is dried out completely, it can be safely disposed of in the trash. This type of paint has the advantage of lower odor, easier cleanup and faster drying time.

FOR QUESTIONS AND MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:
Montgomery County Recycling – (610)278-3618
www.montgomerycountyrecycles.org