



WASTE PAINT DISPOSAL GUIDELINES

USE IT UP

The best way to get rid of paint is to use it for its intended purpose. When planning a project, carefully calculate the amount of paint required and purchase only as much as you need. This will minimize the amount of waste paint after the job and save money in the process. Left over paints may be combined or used separately as a primer coat or for projects where appearance is unimportant. **NOTE:** Latex and oil based paints should not be combined.

GIVE IT AWAY

Left over paint in quantities over one-half gallon may be given to friends, theater groups, high schools, or community organizations.

DRY AND DISPOSE

Liquid paint should never be placed in the refuse collection and disposal system. Liquid paint inevitably spills and causes damage to vehicles, equipment, and streets. Waste paint must be dried out before it may be disposed.

-Empty cans should be allowed to completely air dry.

-Small quantities of paint (1 inch or less in the bottom of the can) may be set aside in a safe, well-ventilated area and allowed to completely air dry. This may take several weeks during cooler months.

-Larger quantities of waste paint should be mixed with an absorbent material such as granulated clay (Auto-Dri,) cat litter, wood chips, shredded paper, or sand until completely dry.

-If the can is more than half full, it will be necessary to use a larger container to mix and dry the waste paint. A cardboard box lined with a plastic bag and newspaper makes a suitable container. Begin with a base layer of absorbent material, add some paint, then more absorbent material and stir as you go. Be sure to add a final layer of absorbent material. You may need more than one container to complete the job and keep the quantity in an easy to handle size.

-Another approach for latex paint and water based stains is the use of a waste paint hardener. These products are sold under several names and should be available at many retail paint stores.

For further information please contact the Department of Refuse Disposal, 651-6626.