

What should I do with my latex paint?



Latex paint is not hazardous waste! **First, be sure that it's latex.**
Latex paints can be identified by these words on the label - just look at the can!

“latex”
“acrylic”
“water-based”

“clean with soap and water”
“vinyl”

Latex paint is accepted from residents at the District HazWaste Center year-round at no charge. The HazWaste Center (at the District Transfer Station in Middlebury, 1223 Rte. 7 South) is open Mon-Fri from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM, and Sat from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Businesses are charged full disposal cost by weight. Below are some other options for getting rid of unwanted latex paint.

USE IT UP

Put a second coat on that closet or hallway. Before you get rid of that can, do you have any places that could use a touch up? You can also mix together small amounts of latex paint, even different colors, and use this mixture as a primer coat on jobs where your final finish isn't critical.

MAKE IT LAST

Keep paint usable for years by storing it properly. Cover the opening with plastic wrap and then make sure the lid fits securely. Storing the can **upside down** on the shelf creates a good seal and preserves the paint for longer. Keep paint from freezing to preserve its qualities. Still can't find a use for it? Then...

PASS IT ON

Donate paint to schools, charities, community groups, or theater groups. Your neighbor might need some extra paint for a small project.

DRY IT UP

Small amounts of latex paint can be allowed to dry, after which it may be disposed of with your regular garbage. Remove the lid and place your can of LATEX PAINT in a safe, well-ventilated area. Cans 1/4 full or less should dry in a week. Add an absorbant material such as mulch, cat litter, sand, sawdust, shredded paper, vermiculite, or plaster of Paris to speed up the drying process. **When there's no more free-flowing latex paint, leave the lid off the container (so your trash hauler can see that it's dried paint) and throw it out with your regular garbage.**

REMEMBER...

Don't throw out paint if the can says “oil-based,” “alkyd,” or “combustible.” This is oil-based paint and should always be taken to the Hazwaste Center whether it is solid or liquid.

Don't pour latex paint down the drain. The organic chemicals in latex paint can harm the biological systems within your septic tank or sewage treatment plant.

Don't dump latex paint on the ground. Although not considered hazardous waste, latex paint can still contaminate soil and water.

Don't put liquid latex paint in your garbage. Free flowing liquids cannot be disposed of as trash.

Call us with any questions!

388-2333

WWW.ADDISONCOUNTYRECYCLES.ORG



ADDISON COUNTY
SOLID WASTE
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT