

What if my Latex Paint is old?

Most latex paint over five years old that has been properly sealed will separate into liquids and solids. All you have to do is mix the latex paint thoroughly with a paint stick and then treat it just as you would useable latex paint. If the latex paint has not been properly sealed, and the contents have dried out, it can be disposed of in your waste container as long as the lid has been removed.

What do I do with cans of Latex Paint that are less than one gallon?

Many residents have numerous cans of latex paint that are only partially full. Follow these steps to dispose of them:

1. Remove the lids of the paint cans and place them in your garbage;
2. Pour the small amounts of latex paint into a one gallon paint can;
3. Different colors of latex paint can be mixed into the one gallon paint container;
4. Scrape out latex paint containers and allow them to dry, then place them in your garbage can;
5. Follow the prior steps for 'What can I do with my leftover latex paint?'

Where can I *Recycle* my surplus liquid latex paint?

Recycling is another way of disposing of your surplus liquid latex paint. Within Douglas County, there are numerous local opportunities to recycle your paint.

Annual Greater East Wenatchee Latex Paint Collection Event:

The City of East Wenatchee and Douglas County co-sponsor an annual Greater East Wenatchee Latex Paint Collection Event, which is held in September of each year. The surplus liquid latex paint will be collected from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at the East Wenatchee City Maintenance Facility located at 271 9th Street N.E., in East Wenatchee. This collection program is for **liquid latex paint only!** Oil-based paint or unlabeled paint will not be accepted at this collection event.

In order to participate in the Greater East Wenatchee Latex Paint Collection Event, the following requirements must be met:

- * **Only** Douglas County residents may participate;
- * **Only** liquid latex paint will be accepted;
- * **Only** one or five gallon containers will be accepted;
- * **No** unlabeled paint cans will be accepted;
- * **No** solidified or dried out cans will be accepted;
- * **No** oil-based paint will be accepted;
- * **No** stains, primers, thinners, lacquers, etc., will be accepted.

Community Latex Paint Collection Centers:

Residents within the communities of Bridgeport, Mansfield, Rock Island and Waterville may turn their latex paint in at each community's Latex Paint Collection Center. Residents wishing to recycle their latex paint are encouraged to contact their local city or town hall for specific dates, days and times. Only liquid latex paint will be collected at these Community Latex Paint Collection Centers. The same rules and collection requirements apply as those collected at the Greater East Wenatchee Latex Paint Collection Event. All collected liquid latex paint is screened and then placed into five gallon plastic buckets, transported off-site and recycled in a beneficial manner.

For further information regarding your local latex paint recycling opportunity, please contact:

- * City of Bridgeport (509) 686-4041
- * City of East Wenatchee (509) 884-9515
- * City of Rock Island (509) 884-1261
- * Town of Mansfield (509) 683-1112
- * Town of Waterville (509) 745-8871

For more waste reduction & recycling information, contact:

**COUNTYWIDE SOLID WASTE PROGRAMS
of DOUGLAS COUNTY
(509) 886-0899**



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How Do I DISPOSE Of LATEX PAINT



within
**DOUGLAS
COUNTY?**

Is Latex Paint considered a Hazardous Waste?



By regulation, latex paint is **not** considered a hazardous waste. However, as a liquid waste, it cannot be disposed of in your waste container. Dumped illegally, liquid latex paint can damage your septic system and drain field, overload sewage treatment plants and lagoons, contaminate storm water collection systems, and create an environmental hazard to groundwater.

How do I know if it is LATEX Paint?

Oil-based paint products, including stains, primers, thinners, lacquers and turpentine, require solvents or mineral spirits for clean-up. Also, if the warning label says “combustible”, it is oil-based. Oil-based paint products should be used sparingly and used with the intent of having NO leftovers after their use.



What do I do with rusty paint cans?

Rusty paint cans, with their lids removed, can simply be disposed of in your garbage can, as long as there are no liquids remaining in the can.

USE THE BUDDY SYSTEM

Each year an estimated 480,000 gallons of leftover latex paint becomes surplus paint within the State of Washington. In order to prevent this surplus, use the “Buddy System”:

Buy only what latex paint you need. Measure your walls or ask your retailer to help estimate how much latex paint your project requires.

Use up all the latex paint you buy by adding an extra coat to an area which could use additional protection.

Do not allow your latex paint to freeze. Latex paint can be stored for years by placing plastic wrap over the opening and making sure the lid fits tightly. Turn the can upside-down to form a tight seal.

Dry out any leftover latex paint in the original container and place it into your waste container. Do not place any liquid latex paint in your waste container, down the drain or on the ground.

You will help protect the environment and save money in the process if you follow these simple steps.



What Can I do with my leftover latex paint?

Residents should dry out latex paint and put it in their garbage *with the lid off*, using one of several methods:

Air:

1. Open the container in a well ventilated area away from pets and children.
2. Remove the lid and let the paint dry out in the can.
3. This method only works when an inch or less of paint remains in the can and is most effective in the warmer months.
4. Protect from freezing and moisture.

Kitty Litter:

1. Mix latex paint with an equal amount of **clay-based** kitty litter.
2. Stir in completely and let the paint dry. It takes about ten minutes for the kitty litter to harden.
3. Add more kitty litter if the paint is soft or running after ten minutes. Repeat until the material is very thick and hard.
4. Sawdust, sand and shredded paper can be used as an alternative to kitty litter.

Paint Hardener:

1. Mix latex paint with commercial paint hardener according to the directions.
2. At the end of that time, paint will have a tacky, oatmeal-like consistency that will not spill out.

Once the latex paint has solidified, place the can with the **lid off** in your garbage can. The waste hauler needs to see that the latex paint has been solidified in order to pick it up with the rest of your waste. NOTE: **These methods will not work for oil-based paint products!**