



Latex Paint Disposal Options

CHELAN COUNTY

www.co.chelan.wa.us

How can I dispose of latex paint?

When disposed of illegally, liquid latex paint can contaminate our groundwater, damage septic fields and overload sewage treatment plants. Latex paint that is solidified or dry can be safely disposed of in a landfill.

Here are some tips for safe disposal of latex paint:

Air dry:

If only a small amount of paint is left in a can, remove the lid and let the paint dry out in the can. Make sure the area is well ventilated and keep out of reach from children and animals. This method works best in warmer months and paint should be protected from moisture and freezing. Dumping the paint onto an old tarp can also quickly dry up leftover paint.

Cat litter:

Mix latex paint with an absorbent material, such as clay-based cat litter, sawdust or shredded paper, and allow mixture to dry.

Use a 50/50 mixture for fast drying time. Add more absorbent material if paint is soft or runny after 10 minutes. 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 coffee can, plastic tub, shoebox or other convenient container.

Paint hardener:

Mix latex paint 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.

Once the paint has hardened or solidified, put the can in your garbage container. Leave the lid off so the garbage hauler can see that the paint has solidified. **Note:** This method does not work for oil-based paints. Oil-based paints need to be taken to a hazardous waste facility for proper disposal.

Why not donate your usable latex paint?

Latex paint that is still in good, *usable* condition can be donated to the Habitat for Humanity store. Paint cans need to be 3/4 full and cannot be rusty or previously frozen. All paint must be dropped off during business hours and will be inspected by staff.

All proceeds from donated paint sold go toward building Habitat for Humanity houses.

Habitat for Humanity Store (509) 667-1638

615 S. Wenatchee Ave., Wenatchee

Store hours: Thursday/Friday 10 a.m.-6 p.m.—Saturday 9 a.m.-4 p.m.





Other uses for leftover latex

Other uses for leftover latex paint or stains:

- Use the paint when painting a garage or dog house or use as a primer coat for another project.
- Donate excess paint to a school, theater group or non-profit agency.
- Keep painting. When finishing a painting project add an additional coat or spread the paint onto a cardboard box or an old tarp, let it dry and discard.

How do I know if my paint is latex or oil-based?

Latex paints will be labeled with words and phrases such as **water-based**, **acrylic**, and **cleans with water**. Latex paint dries on a wall within an hour.

Oil-based paints will be labeled with words and phrases such as **alkyd**, **cleans with solvent**, **flammable**, or **combustible**. Oil-based paint dries on a wall overnight.



Remember: Oil-based paints need to be taken to a hazardous waste facility for proper disposal.

Chelan County Public Works
316 Washington Street, Suite 402
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Phone: (509) 667-6415
www.co.chelan.wa.us