



Managing Paint Waste Wisely

What every painter needs to know.

WHY SHOULD YOU BE CONCERNED?

Aside from causing environmental damage, improper disposal of paint and paint waste violates state and local laws and could lead to costly fines and penalties. It is against federal, state and local law (City of Eugene Code 6.010, 6.446, 6.645, and 6.805 and Springfield Municipal Code 4.372) to discharge non-stormwater substances, including biodegradable substances, into the stormwater collection system, which includes street gutters, storm drains and open channels.

Why is paint waste a problem?

All painting jobs create waste that can harm humans, waterways, fish and other wildlife if handled or discarded

improperly. When paints, paint waste or rinse water enter the stormwater collection system, they are carried—untreated—directly to local streams and rivers. Here they can harm aquatic animals, fish, plants and those who eat the fish, as well as affecting downstream drinking water sources.

Most painters manage waste responsibly, but sometimes disposal options can be confusing. This brochure is designed to help you prevent, reduce, recycle or safely dispose of common paint waste. As a contractor, the result will be happier customers who appreciate your concern for their property and a safer environment. As a do-it-yourselfer, your efforts to improve your home won't come at the expense of the environment.

What can you do with leftover usable paint?

Small amounts of paint left over at the end of a project can be saved for touch ups.

Combine light-colored leftover paints for use as primer on future jobs

Drop off leftover usable oil-based, latex or acrylic paint to a PaintCare collection site in Eugene or Springfield. PaintCare picks up the paint for re-use, recycling, energy recovery or proper disposal. For information, or to locate the nearest collection site, please visit the PaintCare website at:

<http://paintcare.org/oregon.php>

COMMON SENSE TIPS AND GUIDELINES

- Purchase only the amount of paint needed for each job. Not sure how much paint you need? Try out an online paint calculator or ask a professional.
- Use latex paint whenever possible.
- Use tarps and drip pans to collect paint and solvent spills.
- Keep containers tightly sealed when not in use to avoid spills.
- Avoid contaminating ground surface with paint chips and dust.
- Use high-efficiency spray guns to minimize overspray.
- Train employees and subcontractors to handle paint waste properly.
- Store leftover latex paint, oil-based paint, and solvents separately in original or clearly marked containers away from heat sources.



Paint waste includes solvents (water, mineral spirits, and toluene), oil based paint, latex paint and rinse water, rags, paint chips and dust, and paint and solvent containers.

Cleanup Do's

- Allow small amounts of latex paint (about a quarter of a can or less) to solidify in the can, then place in the trash.
- Pour latex cleanup water down an inside drain (toilet or sink) that is connected to the wastewater collection system for treatment.
- Use the least toxic cleanup solvent available.
- Allow paint solids in used solvents to settle. Pour off the clear portion and reuse.
- Dispose of solvents at a permitted hazardous waste management facility.
- In case of a spill, use dry cleanup methods.



Cleanup Don'ts

- Don't pour waste paint or cleanup materials onto the ground.
- Don't clean paint equipment or pour paint into storm drains, ditches, street gutters or dry wells where they can pollute rivers and drinking water sources.
- Don't put liquid paint, solvent or cleanup waste in garbage cans or dumpsters.
- Don't pour oil-based paints or solvents down inside drains. Store and discard at a permitted hazardous waste management facility.



Are you going to be painting, renovating or repairing a building or home that was built before 1978? Check out the new Federal regulations to protect children from lead-based paint hazards at: oregon.gov/DHS/ph/lead/Renovation_Repair_Painting_Rule.shtml

OTHER PAINT JOB WASTE

- If you have only a small amount of latex paint left over (less than a quarter of a can), remove lids from empty latex containers and allow the contents to dry out. Dispose of lids and dry containers in the garbage.
- Empty metal paint cans are recyclable, and can be recycled at the Lane County transfer station and other scrap metal companies. A thin layer of DRY paint is okay.
- Allow rags to dry thoroughly and discard in the garbage.
- Dispose of paint chips and dust properly. For information, call the Eugene office of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) at (541) 686-7838.

Most paint strippers are hazardous and must be handled as hazardous waste. For information about hazardous waste disposal, call Lane County Waste Management at (541) 682-4120.



Eugene Public Works
Stormwater Program



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