

Disposal of Latex & Acrylic (water-based) Paint

The best thing to do with unused, water-based paint is to use it. If you cannot find a use for it (and are unable to find someone who will), it must be *dried up completely* prior to disposal.

There are three ways to accomplish this. All methods require drying time in a well-ventilated, covered, warm (over 60°F degree) location, out of reach of children and animals. Dispose of lids separately; metal lids and cans may be added to a scrap metal recycling pile once residual paint has completely dried.

- 1) Purchase a packet of powdered paint hardener from your local hardware or paint store, and add the recommended amount into the container per instructions. Mix thoroughly with a stir stick. Approximate drying time = 1 day.
- 2) Thoroughly mix in clean kitty litter or “Speedi-Dri” until the consistency resembles thick oatmeal. Approximate drying time = 3-7 days.
- 3) (Small quantities only) Place a small, shallow, cardboard or shoe box with a tight bottom seal (no holes) on top of a thick layer of newspaper. Empty the paint into the box and let it dry completely. Approximate drying time = 3-7 days.

After the paint is completely dry (not just a thick surface layer), you may place the lid-free container in your household trash.

Important: Only water-based paints may be disposed of using the methods described here. All oil and solvent-based paint must be taken to a household hazardous waste collection for disposal.



Still have questions? Call 413-587-1570, Ext. 4306