

Paint & Solvent Disposal

General Information

Paints and solvents are household hazardous wastes because they may be poisonous and flammable.

Latex Paints may contain traces of mercury or lead if manufactured before 1991 or 1979 -- respectively.

Oil-based Paints contain solvents that are both toxic and flammable.

Solvents are liquid substances that are used to dissolve solids. They are used to thin oil-based paints, clean brushes and rollers and dilute varnishes. Solvents are found in varying amounts of paints, stains, varnishes, shellacs, lacquers and strippers.

Chemicals contained in paints and solvents can endanger human health if disposed of improperly. They will also damage the environment.

Most solvents are poisonous if they are swallowed or the vapors are inhaled in large amounts. Solvents can be toxic to fish and birds and can contaminate our groundwater.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT PRACTICES:

NEVER:

- Pour oil-based paints or solvents down the drain
- Dump oil-based paints or solvents on the ground
- Throw liquid paints or solvents in the trash

PROPER DISPOSAL OF PAINT:

- Use it completely
- Give it to a friend, neighbor, church or community agency
- Remove lid from latex paint, dry completely and discard it with your regular trash
- Turn in paints at a household hazardous waste collection event

PROPER DISPOSAL OF SOLVENTS:

- Reuse them by letting solvents stand in a closed container until the paint particles settle out. After the particles have settled, reuse the clear liquid.
- Use kitty litter or other absorbent material to dry the residue.
- Turn in solvents at a household hazardous waste collection event

AVOID PAINT DISPOSAL PROBLEMS:

- Buy only what you need
- Use it completely before buying more
- Apply additional coats
- Store cans upside down to prevent hardening or moisture damage (be sure the lid is sealed securely)