

# What should I do with leftover Paint?

To properly dispose of leftover paint the following are the recommended disposal options.

## REDUCE

First - Buy only what you need and return any unopened cans. If you are at the end of a job and realize you need only a small amount to finish, exchange the unopened can for a smaller quantity.

## REUSE

If you do have leftover paint, use it as an undercoat, second coat, touch-ups, projects (fences, birdhouses, basements), offer it to a friend or neighbor, OR donate leftover paint to community groups, schools, local theater group, recreation department, sign painter, etc.



## Latex Paint



### Latex paint is not hazardous waste.

Latex paints are **water-based** and are a safer alternative than oil-based paints. But if the paint is unusable and you must get rid of it, there are things you can do.

The goal is to simply get the latex paint into a non-liquid form. This can be done in one of two ways.

**Let it air dry** -- Lift off the lid, place the can away from children and pets, and allow the water content of the paint to evaporate. Once it does, the semi-dry to dry paint left in the bottom of the can may be placed in a plastic trash bag and disposed in your regular waste pick-up.

**Mix it with "kitty litter" or other absorbent** – If it takes too long to evaporate the water content, you can mix the paint with an absorbent (clay based kitty litter, vermiculite, shredded newspaper, or shop "oil-dry" absorbent). This can be done in the paint can itself if you have only a quart or so in the can, or in a plastic tray. Mix 2 to 4 cups of absorbent into each quart of paint. After the absorbent has soaked up the paint and it is no longer a liquid, dump it onto a couple layers of newspaper, wrap it up and place it in a plastic trash bag and dispose of it in your regular waste pick-up. If you mixed the absorbent into the paint right in the can, simply place the open can and its non-liquid contents into a trash bag for disposal.

## RECYCLE

Usable leftover latex paints can be blended together to produce a gray or beige paint. Oil-based paints may also be mixed together. **DO NOT MIX OIL-BASED PAINT AND LATEX PAINT.**

## DISPOSE OF OIL-BASED PAINTS SAFELY AND PROPERLY

Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties are working together to help rid the environment of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW). If the dates in Bucks County are not convenient, you may participate in any of the above counties' collection events. For additional dates and information call the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Recycling Hotline at 800-346-4242, the Bucks County Planning Commission at 215-345-3400, or visit our website: [www.buckscounty.gov/recycling](http://www.buckscounty.gov/recycling).



## Oil-Based Paint

Save oil-based paint to take to a

### Bucks County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event.

Go to our website for more information on  
dates, times, and locations:

[www.buckscounty.gov/recycling](http://www.buckscounty.gov/recycling)



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Phone: 215-345-3400 Fax: 215-345-3886

Email: [planningcommission@buckscounty.org](mailto:planningcommission@buckscounty.org) Website: [www.buckscounty.gov/recycling](http://www.buckscounty.gov/recycling)



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

Robert J. Harvie, Jr. *Chair*  
Diane Ellis-Marseglia, LCSW *Vice Chairman*  
Gene DiGirolamo *Secretary*



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