



DISPOSAL OF PAINT

PURCHASING PAINT

Make sure to buy the correct amount of paint for your project. Buy only what you need. Check with your local paint dealer for instructions on how to determine the correct volume of paint required for your project. This will eliminate having to worry about storing or disposing/recycling the paint once the project is completed.

STORING PAINT

1. Store paint in a dry location where temperatures are above freezing.
2. Do not put paint cans directly on cement floors, because the bottom of the can will rust much faster on cement than on other surfaces.
3. Make sure to place the lid firmly on the can and turn the can upside down to prevent air from entering the container. This will make the paint last longer.

Did you know that oil-based paint is good up to 15 years and latex paint will last up to 10 years as long as the paint has never been frozen or thawed?

DISPOSING OF PAINT

For Small Quantities:

Brush the leftover paint on cardboard or newspaper to use it. Allow the empty can to dry with the lid off; or...

Leave the paint in the can to dry by removing the lid. Make sure this is done in a well-ventilated area protected from open flame, children, pets and rain. If the amount of paint is less than one-fourth of the container, the paint should dry in the can. Stirring the paint every few days will speed up the drying process.

For Large Quantities:

Pour one-half inch layers of paint into a cardboard box, lined with plastic. Make sure the paint is dried before the next layer of paint is added. For large amounts (more than 1/4 a can), you can use absorbent material to dry out the paint faster-kitty litter, sawdust, oil dry, shredded newspaper, even a commercially available paint hardener. If you have a full can of paint, pour half into another container before adding the absorbent or you will end up with an overflowed mess. Latex paint will harden much faster than oil-based paint. Once the paint is hardened, put it in with your regular trash with the lid off so the hauler can see it is solid.

PAINT THINNERS

Used paint thinners, turpentine, and mineral spirits can be reused. Pour into a clear glass container and seal with a tight lid. Allow the paint particles to settle to the bottom. Pour the clear liquid into the original container for reuse, then dispose of the residue after allowing it to dry. Adding an absorbent material such as kitty litter or sawdust will speed up the drying.



AEROSOLS CANS

For aerosol cans of paint, spray onto cardboard until nothing more (even air) comes out of the can. Then dispose of the empty can and painted cardboard with your trash.

To view & download our Paint Disposal Tips brochure, click [here](#).

For more information please visit the Ohio EPA Website www.epa.state.oh.us/.