



# Latex Paint Disposal

## What is Latex paint?

Latex paint is a water based paint containing resins, solvents, pigments, and additives. It is durable, easy to apply, and cleans up with soap and water.

## How to tell if paint is Latex:

The paint is Latex or water based if water is sufficient for cleanup. Be sure it is Latex paint or stain. Look on the label for the word Latex or for directions to clean up or thin with water.

## Why can't I dispose of Latex paint on Household Hazardous Waste Day?

Latex paint is not considered hazardous waste. Since it is not hazardous, collecting it would increase the cost of Household Hazardous Waste day.

## What to do with leftover Latex paint:

Latex paint and Latex stains can safely be put in the garbage for disposal at a landfill as long as the paint is dry and solid first.

## Methods of Drying

### Air:

- Remove the lid and let the paint dry out in the can.
- Protect from freezing and rain as well as children and animals.
- This method only works when an inch or less of paint is left in the can.

### Cat Litter:

- Mix Latex paint with an equal amount of clay based cat litter.
- Stir in completely and let the paint dry.
- This process takes about 10 minutes for the cat litter to harden.
- After 10 minutes add more cat litter if the paint is soft or runny.
- Alternatives to cat litter are sawdust, shredded paper, and dirt.

- If there is not enough room in the paint can to stir in enough cat litter, pour the paint into any plastic or cardboard container large enough to hold the material. Containers examples include a shoebox, plastic tub, milk carton, etc.

## Paint hardener:

Mix paint or stain with a commercial hardener according to directions. After stirring in the hardener, the paint or stain will have a tacky oatmeal like consistency and will not spill out.

## Other suggestions for using up Latex paint and stains:

- Use the paint as a primer/undercoat for another painting project. Mix colors if desired.
- Donate excess Latex paint to a school, theater group, or non-profit group.

## Rules of thumb:

- Buy only what you need.
- To protect your health, always apply Latex paint in well ventilated areas.
- Do not mix exterior paints with interior paints.
- Do not mix oil based paints or stains with Latex or water based paints or stains. Oil and water do not mix!
- Dry Latex paint outdoors, away from children and animals.

## Latex paint or Latex stain must be DRY to dispose of in the garbage.

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