



Focus

Facts About Paint Clean-Up

The Issue

Cleaning up after painting generates wastes that need to be properly managed. Other wastes are generated from the painting process as well. The following waste management practices are recommended:

PAINT EQUIPMENT CLEAN-UP WASTES				
Source of waste	Concerns	Pollution prevention tips	On-site management	Disposal or recycling options
Sprayers and rollerbrushes after using solvent-based paints	Waste solvent is a flammable, and possibly toxic, dangerous waste ¹	Decant solvents after use. Reuse decanted solvent. Distill sludges or handle as a dangerous waste.	Soak equipment during transportation back to shop. Clean equipment at shop. Properly contain & label dangerous wastes. Use secondary containment.	Distill solvents and decanted solids on-site or off-site; use a county small quantity generator program ² hazardous waste disposal firm for dangerous waste disposal.
Sprayers and roller brushes after using latex or water-based coatings	Wash water contaminated with latex paint should not be disposed of on the ground, to septic system, storm drain, or swale.	Minimize generation of latex-contaminated wastewater.	Soak equipment during transportation back to shop. Clean equipment at shop. Discharge to the sewer or contain & evaporate off water.	Dispose latex wastewater to sewer or evaporate contained wastewater; remove solids; dispose of dried paint latex solids as waste if allowed by county.

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Other Wastes				
Source of waste	Concerns	Pollution prevention tips	On-site management	Disposal or recycling options
Discarded solvent - based paints	These are dangerous waste due to flammability, hazardous substances and heavy metals* in the paint.	Switch to latex or water-based coatings. Only purchase enough paint for job. Return all unused paint. Donate left over paint.	Store solvent - based paints in inflammable cabinet if more than five gallons are accumulated.	Use county programs; or hazardous waste disposal firm for dangerous waste disposal. Medium & large generators use hazardous waste firm.
Spilled materials	Contaminating the environment is a danger to human health.	Use secondary containment to prevent spills. Reuse spilled materials. Have a spill kit available.	Use absorption materials for liquid spills. Contain and label.	Determine if material is a dangerous waste or not; use county programs or hazardous waste disposal firm for dangerous waste disposal. Dispose of non-hazardous waste in trash.
Discarded latex or water based coatings	<u>Liquid</u> latex or water-based coatings can not be disposed of on ground, in solid waste, sewer, septic system, storm drain, or swale.	Only purchase enough paint for job. Return all unused paint. Leave left over paint with customer or donate.	Store latex paints and water-based coatings in secondary containment. Do not let usable paint freeze. Store cans upside down with plastic wrap under lid.	Donate or use county programs. Dry latex paint waste in can and dispose as solid waste (check with county)
<p>¹Paint clean-up wastes can possibly be a Dangerous Waste- Flammable, Toxicity Characteristic Waste, Toxic and/or Persistent Criteria Waste. Check your MSDS for hazardous substances and bioassay information. See Ecology publication #92-91 "Dangerous Waste Regulations" to determine dangerous waste codes.</p> <p>² County Waste Disposal Programs- Most counties have Household Hazardous Waste Programs (residentially generated wastes) and Small Quantity Generator Programs (commercially generated dangerous wastes).-Check with your county.</p>				

* Includes: lead, mercury, chromium, cadmium, zinc, and copper

For More Information

For further assistance in reducing and properly managing your paint clean-up wastes call the nearest Ecology regional office.

Central Regional Office (509) 575-2491 Eastern Regional Office (509) 456-2926
 Southwest Regional Office (360) 407-6300 Northwest Regional Office (425) 649-7000

If you have special accommodation needs or require this publication in alternative format, please contact David Zink at (360) 407-6752 (Voice) or (360) 407-6066 (TDD).

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