



Latex Paint Disposal

Latex Paint Disposal Instructions

The Ottawa County Health Department does not accept latex paint at our Resource Recovery Service Centers. Most latex paints are not hazardous as they are comprised mostly of water. ***To dispose of latex paint, solidify and place in your curbside trash.***

To Solidify Latex Paint:

DO...

- Allow the paint to dry by removing the lid and allowing liquids to evaporate in a well ventilated area. This works well for small quantities of paint (an inch or two in the bottom of the can), and can take several days.
- Latex paint can also be solidified by mixing in an equal amount of an absorbent material and allowed to dry. Use cat litter, sawdust, plaster of paris, oil dry, or vermiculite.
- Pour thin layers (about 1" of paint) into a cardboard box lined with plastic. Allow the paint to dry one layer at a time until all paint has hardened.
- When thoroughly dry, the remaining hardened paint should be discarded with your regular trash. Leave the lid off the can so the waste collector can see the paint is hardened.

DO NOT...

- Dump the paint on the ground or down storm drains where it will travel directly to surface and/or ground waters.
- Pour it down the drain. While small amounts of latex paint can safely be washed down the drain to a septic system or wastewater treatment plant, this practice should be kept to a minimum. Limit this to brush cleaning and clean-up.
- Throw liquid paint in the regular trash. It may be released from the can when trash is compacted and may seep out of a waste collection vehicle onto your street