



Latex Paint Recycling

Latex paint is not considered hazardous waste and is NOT accepted at our Household Hazardous Waste Collection events.

Latex paint is usable if it is less than 10 years old and has not been repeatedly frozen and thawed. If paint will mix when you stir it, it is probably usable. If this is the case check with your Habitat for Humanity ReStore to see if they will accept it for reuse.

How to distinguish latex paint from solvent-based paint:

If possible, read the label. Solvent-based paint labels require mineral spirits or turpentine for cleanup. If cleaning can be done with soap and water, the paint is water-based. If the label is missing or unreadable, determine the paint's solubility in water. A small amount of paint in a jar mixed with water will show whether it is latex or solvent-based. Latex paint readily mixes with water. Solvent-based paint is insoluble in water – the paint and water will separate.

How to dispose of latex paint:

For smaller quantities: Take an absorbent material such as kitty litter, sand, saw-dust, newspaper and add to the paint. Stir paint. The paint will be absorbed by these materials and speed up the drying process.

For larger quantities: Dump paint into an old bucket or trash bag lined cardboard box. Add absorbent material and stir. You may want to add absorbent material first to ease the mixed process. For all methods, to ensure latex paint is dry, push a screwdriver or other tool into the paint. If it does not penetrate the paint is dry. Once the paint is dry it is safe to throw in the trash.