



How to dispose of latex paint

The City Sanitation Department will accept dried-out latex and water-based paint in your regular trash, and as trash at the City's regular Saturday pickup points from residential customers only.

See special instructions in second section for oil-based paint disposal.

How do I prepare latex paint for disposal?

All residual/leftover latex and water-based paint **must be hardened or dried**. *Any wet or soft paint that could spill will be left as unacceptable by collection crews.*

How do I dry cans less than ¼ full?

- Remove the lid.
- Place can in a safe, well-ventilated area.
- Can contents will dry in a few days.
- Follow trash instructions below.

How do I dry cans more than ¼ full?

- Protect your work surface by lining it with old newspaper.
- Add waste paint hardener to paint can. One packet generally treats up to one gallon of unwanted latex or water-based paint.
 - Mulch, kitty litter, or shredded paper may also be used as a bulking/drying agent, but will take longer to solidify paint.
- Stir and mix thoroughly.
- Set aside for 30 minutes. At the end of that time, paint will have a tacky, oatmeal-like consistency, but will not spill out.
- Follow trash instructions below.

Once cans are dried out

- **Remove lids from cans**
- Put both lids and cans into a plastic trash bag along with your regular household trash.
 - Reminder: trash bags must be set out for collection in City roll-out bins.
- If you have City-provided trash collection service, you may place **up to four paint cans** out for collection at one time.
 - For more than four paint cans, please take cans to a Saturday pick-up point.

Why does latex paint need to be dried out for trash collection?



Fluid paint can spill before, during, and after collection. To avoid messes, we require that all paint be dried before we can accept it as trash.

If your paint is still in usable condition, and has not been frozen, consider offering it for reuse through:

- your neighborhood email list
- Craigslist, Freecycle, or similar places

Remember the following points:

1. Never pour paint into a drain. It can damage your pipes and it isn't good for the water supply.
2. Don't pour paint into the ground. This is hazardous to the soil.
3. If you need to get rid of a lot of latex paint you may want to consider purchasing waste paint hardener. A cup or so of this powder mixed in with a gallon of paint will cause it to harden up within hours.
4. If you have an inch or more of dried paint left in the bottom of the can, you'll have to throw the whole can in the trash.
5. Recycle empty paint cans if less than one-inch of paint is left. Let the empty paint cans dry completely, then recycle them with other metals.
6. For latex paints, remove the lid and let the paint air dry in the can. To speed up the process, stir in an absorbent material such as clay kitty litter, sawdust, or leftover concrete mix.
7. Never pour oil paint into a drain or into the ground. It is considered hazardous waste, and disposing of it this way is illegal.
8. Please note that "air-drying of liquid alkyd or oil based paint is not considered safe."



How to dispose of oil-based paint

The City will not accept oil-based paint and stain products from residential or commercial customers. Oil-based paint and stain products are considered hazardous waste. The City does not have facilities to accept or process them.

The solvents in oil-based paint are flammable, and the resins, solvents, pigments, and additives can be toxic when breathed or touched.

Paint from businesses must be disposed as hazardous waste and all businesses should contact a commercial hazardous waste company for disposal. Residents should contact the paint store where they purchased the product for disposal instructions.

Remember to not buy more paint than necessary and to use up or recycle any extra paint.

Dispose of oil paints as hazardous waste.

For oil-based paints, the best option for disposal is a local Household Hazardous Waste facility. Plug in your zip code at Earth911.com's recycling center locator or call 1-800-CLEANUP (1-800-253-2687) for the closest location however; the City of Montgomery has no local facilities.

How do I dispose of empty paint cans?

If the cans from your oil-based paint or stain products are empty, put them into your regular trash.

How do I dispose of aerosol cans which held oil-based products?

- If the cans are empty, put them into your regular trash.
- If they still contain product, they also must be disposed of as hazardous waste.

If your paint is still in usable condition, and has not been frozen, consider offering it for reuse through

- your neighborhood email list
- Craigslist, Freecycle, or similar places
- Only purchase enough paint for your project and use up any extra material or consider using latex paints instead.

Please note that "air-drying of liquid alkyd or oil based paint is not considered safe."