

Got Latex Paint?

Dry it up, use it up or pass it on!



Dry it up!

Latex paint (also know as acrylic paint) is not hazardous, and can be safely disposed of as regular garbage if it is solid. Follow these easy steps:

If the can is ¼ full or less- remove the lid and the paint will air dry in a safe, well ventilated area in a few days to a week.

If the can is ¼ full or more- add an absorbent material to help it solidify. For example, cat litter, sawdust or shredded paper work well when they are stirred into the can. Once the paint is thicker than oatmeal, leave the lid off and discard with other trash.

Use it up!

Many painting jobs do not need perfection. For example, mixing a few colors together can give you the amount you need for a base coat or a primer application.

Also, avoid making waste at the beginning- buy only what you need. The staff at paint stores has a good idea of how much paint is needed for various projects.

Pass it on!

Donate good usable paints. Unopened cans (in some cases, even open containers) are often welcome. Ask at your church, school, theater group, charity, or community group. Ask your neighbor, and check with the store you bought it from.

Oil based paint

Also know as alkyd paint, these paints contain petroleum products and sometimes other toxic ingredients. These paints will not dry out easily, and should not be disposed of with regular garbage. Stains, varnishes, thinners are flammable and should be brought to the hazardous waste facility at the Transfer Station in Shelton during open hours (Fridays from 8-noon).