

Safe Paint Disposal

Recent research shows that latex paint can safely be put in the garbage for disposal at a landfill, as long as the paint is dry or solidified first. See the other side of this card for easy ways to dry and dispose of latex paint and where to take oil-based paint.

Wet paint can be dangerous.

Do not dump wet paint onto the ground where it can come into contact with children or pets. Do not dump paint in or near a storm drain.

Whatever washes into a storm drain goes directly into a nearby stream, lake, or wetland untreated. Paint is harmful to fish and other wildlife.

Do not put wet paint in the garbage. It can spill from trucks onto the street and other vehicles.



If you have leftover paint:

- Save it for touchups or use it as a base coat on a wall.
- Give it to a neighbor, church, community theater, or other group.

The next time you buy paint, remember to ask the sales staff for help in estimating how much you'll need. Buy the least amount for the job.

Dry out your latex paint!



How to dispose of latex (water-based) paint

With small amounts of leftover latex paint (1 inch or less in the can), remove the lid and let the paint dry out in a well ventilated area. Put the can in the garbage. Leave the lid off so your garbage collector will see that the paint is dry. If there is too much paint in the can to dry out on its own, do the following:

1. Make sure the paint can is 1/2 full or less. Pour excess into another container, like a milk jug or coffee can. (Save this excess paint for mixing later with kitty litter.)



2. Add clay-based kitty litter until the can is 3/4 full.



3. Stir the paint mixture until very thick. After 10 minutes, if the paint is still runny, add more kitty litter.

Maplewood Department of Public Works does not accept oil based paints; oil based paints should be disposed of during Household Hazardous Waste collection days with Essex County.



4. Let paint mixture dry in a well-ventilated area, away from kids and pets. It will take about one day for the mixture to harden.

5. When the mixture is solid and no longer runny, put the paint can in the garbage. Leave the lid off the can! Your garbage collector needs to see that the paint is dry.

Where to take oil-based paint

Oil-based paint is combustible and should be disposed of through the Essex County Utilities Authority on one of their designated Household Hazardous Waste collection days. Call 973-792-9060 for days and hours that household hazardous waste is accepted. <https://www.ecuanj.com/newsevents.html>

Questions about leftover paint?

Maplewood Department of Public Works

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