

Drying Kit for Latex Paint



Step 1: Find an outside work area away from children, pets, and rain. Because some old latex paint contains mercury, it's important to dry out paint in a safe place. Sunny summer days are the best time to dispose of latex paint.

Step 2: Dry it out. If only a small amount is left in the can (less than a fourth), remove the lid and let the paint dry in the can. For larger amounts, mix paint with cat litter or sawdust in the paint can or in a cardboard box lined with plastic and let it dry. If drying multiple cans of latex paint, pour one inch layers of paint into a cardboard box lined with plastic. Allow the paint to dry one layer at a time – thin layers will speed up the drying process. You can also add shredded newspaper with cat litter or sawdust. *Cans that are more than half full may be taken to your local HHW (household hazardous waste) center to be put on the reuse shelf.*

Step 3: Throw the dried paint, cans and other materials in the trash. Leave the lids off paint cans so trash collectors will see that the paint is dry. Dry latex paint does not pose a threat to the environment.

Please do not bring latex paint to your local HHW center for disposal. Dry latex paint is not a hazardous chemical and breaks down in the environment. It is expensive to dispose of latex paint. The money spent on latex paint can be used for the disposal of more harmful chemicals such as pesticides, herbicides, oil products, etc. For more information please visit the website of your local HHW facility – www.bcswd.com in Benton County or www.bmswd.com in Washington or Madison County. Never pour paint down a storm drain or into a waterway!

