

CECIL COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DIVISION HOUSEHOLD PAINT RECYCLING & DISPOSAL



Why Does Proper Handling of Paint Matter?

Proper handling of liquid paint protects human health and the environment. Improper disposal of paints down sinks and drains, onto the ground, or into the trash, can overwhelm and damage sewage systems, destroy septic tanks, and damage the protective liners of landfills. These items can also contaminate surface and groundwater, which we depend on for drinking water and enjoy for recreation.

3R's of Paint—Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

REDUCE - Reduce the amount of leftover paint from your project by:

- 🪴 Measure the space you are painting then consult your paint dealer or use an online paint calculator to help you know how much paint to buy.
- 🪴 Use paint swatches to pick the color instead of buying quarts of different colors.
- 🪴 If you have leftover paint, use it up with an extra coat of paint on your project.

REUSE - Leftover paint has a shelf life of 10-15 years when properly stored

- 🪴 Seal the paint can properly by removing paint from the grooves that hold the lid and using a rubber mallet to tap down the lid.
- 🪴 Store paint in a cool dark location, such as a basement or cabinet, and keep them away from moisture so that the cans don't rust.

RECYCLE- Usable Latex paint can be recycled at the Central Landfill Mon.-Sat. 7:30-3:30pm

- 🪴 The Cecil County Central Landfill is located at 758 E. Old Philadelphia Rd. (Rt. 7), Elkton, MD 21921.

DISPOSE- Unusable Latex paint and Oil Based paint should be properly disposed of

UNUSABLE LATEX PAINT - (empty paint cans, or dried up, separated, or lumpy latex paint) can be solidified with dirt, sand, saw dust, wood chips, or kitty litter, put in a trash bag & put out with your regular trash. Paint stores also sell a paint solidifying agent.

OIL BASED PAINT - Oil based paints are considered a household hazardous waste and should be disposed through household hazardous waste collection events. If you cannot participate in one of these events and have to dispose of oil based paint, you can solidify the paint with dirt, sand, saw dust, wood chips or kitty litter and put it in the trash. Check with your waste hauler before putting it our curbside.

NEVER THROW LIQUID PAINT IN THE TRASH !

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT PAINT CONTACT:

410-996-6275

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