

# Latex Paint Disposal Guide

## HOW DO I KNOW IF MY PAINT IS LATEX?

- **Look for Key Words** - if your paint is latex, it will have the words “latex,” “water-based,” or “acrylic” on the can. Non-latex paint will say “oil based” or “alkyd.”
- **Check Clean-up Instructions** - If you can't find the key words listed above, check the label for clean-up instructions. Oil-based paint requires clean-up with paint thinner, turpentine, mineral spirits, or solvent.



## WHAT IF I STILL CANNOT TELL IF IT IS LATEX?

If you cannot read the label, assume the paint is oil-based and bring it to a Household Hazardous Waste Collection (HHW) near you. For collection locations, visit Lakes Region Planning Commission's website, [www.lakesrpc.org/serviceshhw.asp](http://www.lakesrpc.org/serviceshhw.asp)

## HOW DO I DISPOSE OF UNWANTED LATEX PAINT?

Latex paint is **NOT** accepted at HHW events, but you can safely and easily dispose of it yourself! Liquid latex paint may not be thrown away. Instead, dry it out using the following techniques. Once dried, latex paint and cans can be taken to your local transfer station for disposal.

- Make sure to do your paint drying in a well-ventilated area away from children and pets.
- If there is a **thin film** of paint in the can, simply take off the lid and let it dry out. Recycle metal cans at a transfer station.
- **For 2/3 can or less**, pour into a plastic bag lined-box to a depth of an inch at a time allowing it to dry between layers. When it becomes dry, throw it into a bag for disposal.
- **If more than 2/3 full**, pour some of the paint into a large container such as an ice cream or cat litter bucket and stir in cat litter, sawdust or shredded newspaper. The amount needed will depend on the nature and condition of the paint. When your paint has hardened, you can put it in your trash.
- You can also purchase commercial paint hardener at your local home improvement store to help dry latex paint.



For more information,  
visit [www.lakesrpc.org/serviceshhw.asp](http://www.lakesrpc.org/serviceshhw.asp) or  
call 603-279-8171

