

Can My Paint Be REUSED?

Can My Paint Be Reused by Someone Else?

The HHW program donates reusable paint and other products through its product reuse program. The following guidelines are used to determine if paint is acceptable for reuse:

- Keep paint in the original container with the original label. The label must be intact so the next consumer can be informed on proper handling.
- Paint must be in its original condition. Any paint that has been altered, thinned or had any sort of additive mixed with it cannot be accepted for reuse.
- Paint must never have been frozen. When latex paint freezes it sours (smells like sour milk) and separates into liquids and solids.
- Paint can must be half-full or more.
- Paint must be less than 4 years old. Latex paint can deteriorate or sour after a few years.

Other Important INFORMATION

The facility is NOT open on public holidays and may close in severe weather. If it is raining, snowing, or if winds exceed 35 mph, the facility will be closed. Please call 303.818.0721 to check for closures.

Who Served: Residents of Boulder County, City and County of Broomfield, and the Town of Erie. Please bring a driver's license or other proof of residency.

Please Note: The HHW program does NOT accept wastes from businesses, non-profit agencies, churches, clubs, etc.

Cost: This program is funded by municipalities based on participation by their residents. FREE to residents, although donations are accepted.

Household Hazardous Waste Facility

Hours of Operation:

Wednesdays: 8 am - 3:30 pm

Fridays & Saturdays: 8 am - noon

Accepts residential hazardous waste and reusable product giveaway during these hours.

Location: 5880 Butte Mill Rd, Boulder (operated by Boulder County, the facility is on Western Disposal property)

HHW Hotline: 303.441.4800

Program Staff: 720.564.2220

Website: www.bouldercountyrecycles.net

INFORMATION
PROVIDED BY:



Resource Conservation Division
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Latex (water-based) PAINT

HHW
Fact Sheet

#2



What Should I Do With My Latex Paint?

Save yourself a trip by drying out or solidifying your spoiled latex paint and disposing of it with your regular trash. Latex paint is not hazardous and, once solidified, can be safely sent for landfill disposal.



How to Dry Out Latex Paint

If your latex paint is not reusable, there are several ways to dry it out. Here are a few examples:

- Remove the lid and allow the paint to dry. You may need to mix it up to be sure it dries all the way through. This works well for small quantities and can take several days.
- Mix an equal amount of absorbent material (kitty litter, sawdust, newspaper or vermiculite) to the paint, mix well and allow it to dry. Paint hardening products can also be purchased at hardware stores. Once there is no free running liquid you can dispose of the cans with your trash.
- Line a cardboard box with a plastic bag free of holes. Pour absorbent material into the box; slowly mix the paint into the absorbent. Once completely dry, dispose of the bag with your regular trash, and recycle the cardboard box.

Disposal

- When the paint is completely solidified and dry it can be thrown away with your regular, household trash. Be sure and leave the lids off so your waste hauler knows the can is dried-out. If the lids are left on, your waste hauler will not take it.
- Metal paint cans that are completely empty and dry may be recycled in the scrap metal bin at the Boulder County Recycling Drop-off Center, located just north of Arapahoe Road on 63rd Street in Boulder.

Save A Trip: Dry It Out!

The Boulder County HHW program spends thousands of taxpayer dollars each year on disposing of non-reusable latex paint. In an effort to reduce program costs, residents are asked to consider another option before bringing latex paint to the HHW facility or collection event.



Save yourself a trip by drying out or solidifying your spoiled latex paint and disposing of it with your regular trash. Latex paint is not hazardous and, once solidified, can be safely sent for landfill disposal.

The HHW program will continue to accept latex paint if you are unable to dry it out, and we will continue to pass on good, reusable paint to other county residents and businesses for reuse.

Why Should I Dry It Out?

- *Save a trip!*
- *Waste haulers will not accept latex paint that is not completely solidified before it is thrown away.*
- *Liquids can leak out of trash trucks onto streets and into the environment.*
- *Landfills are not designed for liquid wastes and will not accept them.*
- *You can help your local HHW program spend less taxpayer dollars.*

Paint Calculator

Waste Reduction: Only buy the amount of paint needed to finish the project, then there will be no paint for disposal. Save money and reduce waste - buy smaller samples instead of using whole quarts for color samples. Use the paint calculator to figure out how much paint you need.

1. Determine the total square feet (sq. ft.) of each area to be painted.
 - A. For each wall multiply the height x width
Height _____ ft. x width _____ ft. = _____ sq. ft.
 - B. For each ceiling, multiply the length by the width
Length _____ ft. x width _____ ft. = _____ sq. ft.
2. Add the total square feet for all the walls and ceilings to be painted.
 - C. $A + B =$ _____ total sq. ft.
3. To determine the number of gallons of paint needed for one coat, divide the total sq.ft. by 400.
 - D. Total sq. ft. (sum from C) _____ / 400 = _____ gallons of paint.

