



# Latex Paint Disposal Methods



**Return It:** If you have a full, unopened can of a stock color (not custom tinted paint), check with your dealer or retailer to see if you can return it for a refund.

**Use it up:** The best thing to do with usable latex paint is to use it up. Apply a second coat or touch up an area that needs improvement.

**Share it:** If you cannot use leftover latex paint, try to share it with a neighbor, friend or community group.

**Evaporate It:** Latex paint products cannot be disposed of in liquid form in most landfills. Unusable latex paint can be safely disposed of by allowing the liquid to evaporate. When the paint has hardened completely, it may be placed in the regular trash.

## **To evaporate small amounts of latex paint:**

Move paint container to a sheltered, secure outdoor area away from flames, children and pets. Some old latex paint contains mercury so its important to dry out paint in a safe, well-ventilated area. Remove the lid and let the paint dry in the can. Stirring the paint occasionally will speed up the drying process. Discard the can of dried paint in the trash. Leave the lid off can so the trash collector can see that the paint is dry.

## **To evaporate larger amounts of paint:**

Line a medium-sized cardboard box with a heavy plastic trash bag, and place it in a secure, well-ventilated area away from flames, children and pets. Pour latex paint into the lined cardboard box. Add an equal amount of kitty litter or oil dry. Mix the paint and dry material by stirring with a stick. Stirring the mixture every few days will speed up the drying process. When the mixture is hard and dry, remove the bag from the box and place it in the trash.