



What To Do With Leftover Latex Paint

When you have leftover latex paint that you don't want anymore – check it out to see if it is in reusable condition. If it is, donate it! If not, make sure to dispose of it properly.

Donate Good Quality Paint

Many non-profit organizations accept donations of latex paint in good condition. Examples include community theater groups, religious organizations, and charities. Local public works departments, schools and colleges, and public housing authorities are other potential options.

How Can I Tell If My Paint Is Usable?

To keep leftover latex paint fresh and reusable, it cannot have contact with air or go through a freeze/thaw cycle more than once or twice. To know whether the paint you have has gone bad, look for these signs:

- Mold
- Strong rancid odor – a chemical odor is a good sign
- The solvent has separated from the solids and doesn't mix
- There are clumps in the paint that don't stir out
- Inconsistent color (after being stirred)
- Rusted or damaged cans

Make Sure to Properly Dispose of Unusable Latex Paint

If all else fails, make sure to properly dispose of your leftover latex paint. It is against the law to dispose of liquid latex paint. Before placing it in the trash:

- Open the container and allow the paint to air dry in a well-ventilated area away from children and pets, or
- Add kitty litter, sawdust, sand, or clay absorbent to soak up the leftover paint.

NEVER place oil-based paints in the regular trash. Even hardened or dried oil-based paint is flammable and should only be disposed of through household hazardous waste (HHW) collection programs.



Local Organizations that Accept Good Quality Latex Paint

**All paint must be within 5 years of purchase, full or nearly full, and sealed properly. They reserve the right to refuse cans at the time of donation. Latex only!*

Habitat for Humanity ReStore
70 Fuller Road, Albany, NY
Phone: (518) 275-6638
E-mail: ReStore@habitatcd.org
Website: www.habitatcd.org/restore

Habitat for Humanity ReStore
115 No. Broadway, Schenectady, NY
Phone: (518) 395-3412
E-mail: ReStore@schenectadyhabitat.org
Website: www.schenectadyhabitat.org

Troy Alley Action
Improvement projects including mural painting
Website: <http://troyalleyaction.org>

Local Materials Exchange Websites – Latex Only!

Amsterdam: <http://groups.freecycle.org/AmsterdamNY>
Schoharie County: <http://groups.freecycle.org/SchoharieNY>
Oneonta: <http://groups.freecycle.org/OneontaNY>
Schenectady: <http://groups.freecycle.org/SchenectadyNYFreecycle>

How Can I Tell If I Have Latex or Oil Paint?

Latex paint represents more than 80 percent of the paint sold to consumers. These terms on the label, identify the paint as latex: water-based, acrylic, vinyl acrylic, terpolymer, and styrene acrylic.

Oil-based paints include varnishes, paint thinners, and other solvent-based coatings. If the label contains any of the following terms, the paint is hazardous: combustible, oil, alkyd, petroleum distillates, mineral spirits, linseed oil, hydrocarbons, lacquer, thinner, lead, chromium, and/or cadmium.

Note: If there isn't a readable label, you should dispose of the paint as a hazardous waste.

Local Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Name of Facility / Program	Location & Contact Info	Hours of Operation	Paint Accepted
Schoharie County sponsored one-day collection	Call (518) 295-8300 for information	Varies - Call (518) 295-8300 for date/time	Oil-based Only Do NOT Bring Latex!

This document was developed by the Northeast Waste Management Officials' Association (NEWMOA). Mention of any organization or company name is not considered an endorsement by NEWMOA, NEWMOA-member states, or the USDA.