

# Solid Waste Management Department

## How to Properly Dispose of Paint

### What do I do with old paint?

The best option is to use the paint. If this is not possible, follow these steps: Determine whether the paint is Latex or Oil based.

Latex paints are composed of water and are easily cleaned up using water. Oil based (Alkyd) paints contain a solvent and require paint thinner for clean-up. Be safe, never use your sense of smell to determine paint type. Avoid handling paint in liquid or solid (chips) form.

### Dispose of the paint properly:

#### Oil Based Paint

Deliver to the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center located at 1900 E. Club Boulevard, Durham, North Carolina 27704. Oil based paints are household hazards primarily because of their flammability characteristics. Keep the can away from heat sources.

#### Latex Paint

Latex paint that has been fully dried can be safely disposed of in your household trash. Drying your paint instead of bringing it to the [HHW Facility](#) will help save the City up to \$45,000 each year in unnecessary hazardous disposal fees. To dry your paint, simply add sand, kitty litter, or shredded paper to the paint and leave it in the sun to dry. Stir the can occasionally to make sure that the contents are dry throughout. This may take a few weeks depending on the amount of paint. Keep the can out of reach of children, animals and heat sources. Take precautions to prevent spillage.

Cans with only a little bit of paint will dry much quicker than almost full cans. Once the paint is fully dry, the can may be placed in a regular garbage bag and in your green cart. But before you do, make sure the entire can is dry, and not just a thin dry layer on top. If you don't have the time to dry your paint, or if the can is almost full, latex paint is accepted at the [HHW facility](#).

For additional information please call the Waste Reduction and Recycling Division of the Solid Waste Management Department at 919-560-4186