



## Upcoming Latex Paint Disposal Policy Change

**Effective January 1, 2014: Metro Nashville Public Works will no longer accept LATEX (water-based) paint at the household hazardous waste collection facility (East Recycling Convenience Center) located at 943A Dr. Richard G. Adams Dr., Nashville, TN 37207.**

Today's latex (water-based) paint has a very low level of toxicity and is not considered hazardous waste. Disposing of it is costly, therefore, we ask people with unwanted latex paint to use other options to dispose of it. So save yourself a trip to the HHW collection facility! Here are some easy, safe ways to dispose of unwanted latex paint:

- ❖ **Figure out what kind of paint you have** – If your paint is latex, it will have the words “latex”, “water-based”, or “acrylic” on the can. Non-latex (oil-based) paint will say “oil based” or “alkyd” and will still be accepted at the HHW collection facility (address above).
- ❖ **Use it up, or offer it to someone else** – One gallon of paint should cover 250 – 350 square feet of surface, so try to buy the right amount. You may want to save any extra for future touch-ups or uses which do not require a different color. If you just don't want it, offer the paint to a neighbor or organization which might put it to good use.
- ❖ **Proper paint storage** – If you have extra paint you would like to store, stretch plastic wrap tightly over the opening of the paint can before securing the lid. Properly stored paint should last years in a room with a moderate temperature.
- ❖ **Dry it out** – If you or anyone else cannot find a good use for your latex paint, here is how to properly dispose of it - Never pour paint in a storm drain, sink, or toilet.
  - If there is one inch or less paint in the can, you can simply let the paint dry by removing the lid and placing the can in a well ventilated area, out of reach of pets and children.
  - If there is more than one inch of paint in the can, you can dry it by adding shredded paper, sawdust, mulch, kitty litter, or a commercial paint hardener to the paint and stirring it. Once the paint is dry, you can place the can (in a trash bag) in your regular trash container.

For more information about the Household Hazardous Waste Program, visit <http://www.nashville.gov/Public-Works/Neighborhood-Services/Special-Hazardous-Waste.aspx> , call (615) 880-1000 or email us at [customercare@nashville.gov](mailto:customercare@nashville.gov).



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