



Refuse & Recycling

<https://www.bedfordma.gov/recycling>

How to Dispose of Latex Paint

Latex paint is not considered hazardous waste but it cannot be disposed of as regular trash until the contents are solid or dry. Oil-based paints, thinners, stains, etc., are hazardous waste and should be taken to the household hazardous waste collection in Lexington.

Do not put liquid paint in the trash or pour liquid paint down a sink drain or storm drain.



To prepare your **latex paint** for the trash, follow these steps:

- 1) Place the paint can(s) in a box. This will minimize the risk of the can being kicked over spilling baby boy blue, little girl pink or some other color paint across your garage or basement floor.
- 2) Do not stir the paint. Keep the solids at the bottom.
- 3) If there is a significant amount of paint in the can, add a paint hardener or cat litter to the can and gently mix it with the liquid. Paint hardener is available at most hardware stores.



- 4) Leave the lid off the can and let the mixture dry.
- 5) After a few days, check the mixture. If there is still liquid, add more absorbent.
- 6) When the material in the paint can is dry, replace the lid securely. Place the closed can in a trash bag and dispose of it with your regular trash.

If there isn't much paint left in the can, just open the can and let the paint dry. You can then dispose of the closed paint can in the trash.

Recycling/Reuse Options for Latex Paint

Latex paint can be recycled but there are a few options locally.

A company in Hanover, Mass., Recolor, is the closest option. Another option is donating to a local theater group or drama club, a charity or Boy Scout troop.

Other options to consider are:

- Using up the extra paint.
- Mixing the paint in a 5-gallon pail, especially if the colors are similar.
- Using the extra paint on an obscure wall in the basement, attic or garage. When done, just leave the lid off the container and let the remnants of the paint to dry out before disposing of the container in the trash.

Safely Dispose of Oil-Based Paint, Stains & Finishes

Oil-based paints should be brought to the hazardous household waste collection in Lexington. (Schedule under Calendar Tab at www.bedfordma.gov/recycling.)

- Do not dry out oil-based paints, stains, or wood finishes for disposal in the trash. These products contain volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that vaporize at room temperature and may be toxic when inhaled.
- Oil based paints and stains are flammable -store away from sources of sparks or heat.
- Old oil-based paints and marine paints may contain lead, mercury, chromium or cadmium, which are toxic to humans, animals and the environment.

For more information about managing paint and other household hazardous waste, visit: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/guide-to-safely-managing-hazardous-household-products/download>

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