

Disposing of Hazardous Paints, Stains and Wood Finishes

How can I identify hazardous materials?

Look for these words on the label:

- Clean up with paint thinner or mineral spirits.
- Combustible
- Oil
- Alkyd
- Alkyd Resin
- Petroleum Distillates
- Mineral Spirits
- Linseed Oil
- Hydrocarbons
- Solvent-based
- Lacquer
- Thinner
- Lead
- Chromium
- Two-part Paint
- Car or Boat Paint
- Swimming Pool Paint



How do I dispose of these materials?

Solid in can: Throw away in household trash.

Recycle: Most towns accept *usable* oil and alkyd paints, stains and wood finishes from town residents at the Recycling Center from May through October. Good paint is available at no cost.

Evaporate: Small quantities—less than two inches in the bottom of a can—may be disposed of by allowing the liquid to evaporate. Move the container to a sheltered, outdoor area away from children and pets; remove the lid and allow liquid to dry. Once the liquid evaporates, recycle the *open* can or discard in the trash.

Use Up Or Share: Leftover paint can be used as a prime coat or to paint items where matching colors is not a concern. Or ask neighbors, friends, theater groups, recreation departments or service organizations if they can use your paint, stain or wood finishes.

Full or partially full cans: Take to household hazardous products collection.

Recycle Empty Cans: Leave the lid off the can to dry the remaining paint residue, then recycle the open can and lid with metal cans at your town's recycling center. Recycle empty aerosol cans at your town's recycling center.

6/05



Barnstable County
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS PROGRAM
In cooperation with the University of Massachusetts Extension
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Disposing of Non-hazardous Paints, Stains and Wood Finishes

How can I identify non-hazardous materials?

Look for these words on the label:

- Clean up with soap and water.
- Latex
- Water-based
- Ethylene Glycol
- Vinyl Emulsion
- Acrylic
- Acrylic Emulsion
- Glycol
- Poly Vinyl Alcohol



How do I dispose of these materials?

Absorb: Large quantities of latex or acrylic paint, stains and wood finishes—more than two inches in the bottom of a can—may be absorbed with clay-based kitty litter. Pour kitty litter into a box or container, then pour the paint into the container and stir. Add kitty litter until you can't stir anymore. Put the *container with the absorbed paint* into your household trash. Recycle open, dry paint cans.

Evaporate: Small quantities—less than two inches in the bottom of a can—may be disposed of by allowing the liquid to evaporate. Move the container to a sheltered, outdoor area away from children and pets; remove the lid and allow liquid to dry. Once the liquid evaporates, recycle the *open* can or discard in the trash. Up to two inches in the bottom of an oil-based paint can may also be disposed of in this manner.

Recycle Empty Cans: Leave the lid off the can to dry the remaining paint residue, then recycle the open can and lid with metal cans at your town's recycling center. Recycle empty aerosol cans at your town's recycling center.

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