



MANAGING LATEX PAINT AT SCHOOL SITES

Improper disposal of paint and paint wastes can cause environmental damage and violates state and local laws. It is unlawful to discharge non-storm water substances, including biodegradable substances, into the storm water collection system, which includes street gutters, storm drains and open channels. It is also unlawful to discard liquid paint or other related paint products in solid waste landfills (trash). Never pour paint or solvents into the sewer system (sink).

- Review Safety Data Sheets (SDS) and identify any hazardous ingredients, if hazardous ingredients are listed, contact the Safety Office for guidance.
- Recover all unused portions of paint:
Collect any leftover paint and combine it with the same batch for reuse.
Use mixed colored paint for undercoat or primer.
- Unused paint from opened containers: Use this paint before opening another container. Use these materials at the site for future touch up work.
- Unused paint in unopened containers: Do not use these materials until the open containers are used first.
- Cleaning up small spills and drippings: Use rags or paper towels to wipe up small spills or drippings. Non-saturated or dried rags or paper towels can be discarded in the trash. For large spills, contain the spills to prevent any discharge into any drains. Contact the Custodian's Office for assistance.
- Used rollers and brushes: Remove excess paint from rollers and brushes. Save brushes and rollers for future painting. Dried rollers and brushes can be discarded in the trash. To rinse brushes and painting equipment, either do it in the sink or in a basin that can capture the rinse water at the site, so that you can dispose of it to the sanitary sewer. Sanitary sewer systems can digest latex rinse water into harmless products. Never pour liquid latex paint into the sanitary sewer.
- Dried paint or paint chips that do not contain hazardous ingredients can be discarded in the trash.
- Disposal of old, unwanted paint: contact the Safety Office for guidance.

For more information or clarification contact the Safety Office