

How to Dry Out Latex Paint for Disposal

Latex paint, a water-based material is considered a non-hazardous material. Modern latex is an excellent low-toxic alternative to oil-based paint. If you can't use it up or give it away, you can include it in your household trash. But ... to throw it away, you must first turn it into a SOLID.



How to dry your Latex paint:

- If there's just a thin film of paint in the can, simply take off the lid and let it dry out. Recycle metal cans.
- For 2/3 can or less, pour into a plastic bag-lined box to a depth of an inch at a time, allowing it to dry between layers. When dry, throw out the bag.
- If more than 2/3 full, pour some of it into a large container such as an ice cream or kitty litter bucket and stir in kitty litter, sawdust or some other absorbent. Start with a cup or two of absorbent. How much you need will depend on the nature and condition of the paint. When your paint has hardened, you can put it in your trash.
- Make sure to do your paint drying in a well-ventilated space away from children and pets.
- You know it's Latex if the clean-up instructions say to use "soap and water".
- Oil-based paint must be brought to a hazardous waste collection. Contact Bartholomew County Solid Waste Management District for details, 812-376-2614.