



Managing Paint Waste Wisely

What Every Painter Needs to Know!

Why Should You Be Concerned?

Aside from causing environmental damage, improper disposal of paint and paint wastes violates state and local laws and could lead to costly fines and penalties. It is against federal, state and local law (**City of Medford Code 4.850**) to discharge non-stormwater substances, including biodegradable substances, into the stormwater collection system, which includes street gutters, storm drains and open channels.

Why is Paint Waste a Problem?

All painting jobs create wastes that can harm humans, waterways, fish and other wildlife if handled or discarded improperly. When paints, paint waste or rinse water enter the stormwater collection system, they're carried untreated directly into local streams and rivers. Here they can harm aquatic animals, fish, plants and those who eat the fish, as well as affecting downstream drinking water sources.

Most painters manage waste responsibly, but sometimes disposal options can be confusing. This information is designed to help you prevent, reduce, recycle or safely dispose of common painting wastes. As a contractor, the result will be happier customers who appreciate your concern for their property and a safer environment. As a do-it-yourselfer, your efforts to improve your home won't come at the expense of the environment.

What is Paint Waste?

- Solvent, (water, mineral spirits, toluene).
- Oil-based paint.
- Latex paint and the rinse water.
- Rags.
- Paint chips/dust.
- Paint/solvent containers.

What Can You Do With Usable Leftover Paint?

- Donate leftover paint to local theaters, schools, clubs or churches.
- Give small amounts of paint left over at the end of a contracting job to the customer for touch up.
- Combine light-colored leftover paints for use as primer on future jobs.
- Dispose of unwanted oil-based paint at a permitted hazardous waste facility (see telephone yellow pages).

Clean-Up Do's!

- Allow paint solids in used solvents to settle. Pour off the clear portion and reuse.
- Dispose of solvents at a permitted hazardous waste management facility.
- Pour latex cleanup water down an inside drain, (toilets and sinks) that is connected to the wastewater collection system for treatment.
- Use the least toxic cleanup solvent available.

Clean-up Don'ts!

- Don't pour oil-based or latex waste paint or clean-up materials onto the ground.
- Don't clean paint equipment in storm drains or pour paint into storm drains, ditches, street gutters, catch basins or dry wells, where they can pollute creeks and other surface waters.
- Don't put **liquid** paint, solvent or clean-up waste in garbage cans or dumpsters. Allow small amounts of paint to solidify in the can, then, place in trash.
- Don't pour oil-based paints or solvents down inside drains that are connected to the wastewater collection system. Store and discard at a hazardous collection event.

Other Paint Job Waste!

- Remove lids from empty latex containers and allow the contents to dry out. Dispose of lids and dry containers in the garbage.
- Allow rags to dry thoroughly and discard in the garbage.
- Dispose of Paint chips and dust properly (see telephone yellow pages).
- Most paint strippers are hazardous and should be handled as hazardous waste. (see telephone yellow pages).

Common Sense Tips and Guidelines!

- ◆ Purchase only the amount of paint needed for each job.
- ◆ Use latex paint whenever possible.
- ◆ Use tarps and drip pans to collect paint and solvents spills.
- ◆ Keep containers tightly sealed when not in use to avoid spills.
- ◆ Avoid contaminating ground surface with paint chips and dust.
- ◆ Use high-efficiency spray guns to minimize over spray.
- ◆ Train employees and subcontractors to handle paint waste properly.
- ◆ Store leftover latex paint, oil-based paint and solvents separately in original or clearly marked containers.

For information about disposing of paint and other hazardous waste (see telephone yellow pages)

Pick Up The Phone

City of Medford Resources

→	Business License	774-2025
→	Stormwater Information	774-2600
→	Stormwater Rate/Billing Information	774-2100
→	Pollution Complaints/Stormwater Discharge Violations	774-2600
→	Stormwater System Maintenance	774-2600
→	Disposal to the Wastewater Collection System	774-2750

Hazardous Waste/Disposal Alternatives

- *Emergency Spills:*
City of Medford 9-1-1
- *Hazardous Waste:*
See the Telephone Yellow Pages
- *Recycling Services:*
See the Telephone Yellow Pages
- *Discharge Permits:*
Oregon State Department of Environmental Quality 776-6010/X246
Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant 774-2750
- *Storage Considerations:*
City of Medford Fire Marshall's Office 774-2318
- *Technical Assistance:*
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality 776-6010X246