



**Practice the Three R's;  
Reduce, Reuse, Recycle**

*Reduce leftover paint by only buying what you need. This can be a real money saver also!*

*If there is only a small quantity of paint left in the can when your project is complete, use it up. Paint out the last couple of inches of paint with an additional coat on the wall.*

*Store larger amounts of leftover paint properly to keep it fresh for touch up or other projects. For best results cover the top of the can with plastic wrap and securely seal the lid. Turn the sealed can upside down and store in a place with a moderate temperature to prevent freezing. Properly stored paint stays good for a long time!*

*Ask friends, relatives, neighbors, churches, schools or community organizations if they have a use for your leftover paint. This is a terrific way to practice reuse!*

*Take leftover paints to the City of Salina's Household Hazardous Waste Facility. We will safely dispose of unusable paint and recycle all we can through our Reuse program. Check it out, it's free!*



City of Salina  
Household Hazardous Waste Facility  
315 E. Elm, Salina, KS  
Phone: (785) 826-6638  
E-Mail: [HHW@salina.org](mailto:HHW@salina.org)  
Open Thursdays 7:30 am - 7:00 pm  
1st Saturday of each month  
8:00 am - Noon  
Open to residents of Salina and  
surrounding counties

Business Waste Not Accepted

# A Guide to Paint Disposal

**Everyone seems to have leftover paint in the basement or garage. Maybe it's your own from recent projects or the last time you painted the living room. Perhaps it was a surprise left by the previous owners or renters of your home. Either way, once you decide you won't be making use of it, just how do you get rid of it?**

**First, sort your paint to see just what you have. Separate your paints by type; Latex (water-based), Oil-based, and other paint products such as varnish and stain.**

**Next, refer to the following guidelines to safely dispose of products in each category.**

*The City of Salina's Household Hazardous Waste Facility accepts latex and oil-based paint subject to a 5 gallon liquid weekly drop-off limit. Do not combine paints from multiple cans. Consider checking our reuse shelves before starting your next painting project.*

## **Latex Paint**

Latex paints are water-based and are not considered hazardous. Latex paint can be identified by the words latex or water based on the label. Thinning and clean-up instructions will say to use soap and water. If the label is missing, put a drop of paint into a container of water and stir. If the paint is latex, it will mix with the water.

### **How to dispose of latex paint**

- Because latex paint is considered non-toxic, any amount of solidified latex paint, as well as empty cans, can go into your garbage with the lid removed. Consider donating usable latex paint in good condition to a local club or civic organization.
- Latex paint is accepted at the City of Salina's Household Hazardous Waste Facility.

### **How to solidify latex paint**

- If you have an inch or less of paint left in the can, simply remove the lid and let the paint dry out. Protect the paint from rain and keep out of reach of children and pets.
- If you have more than an inch of paint left in a can, mix it with an equal amount of clay-based cat litter. Smaller amounts can be mixed right in the can. For larger amounts line a box or pail with plastic, pour the paint on top of the litter and mix it in. After the paint has hardened it can be disposed of with your garbage. Remember to remove the lid on cans of solidified paint.

## **Oil-Based Paint, Varnish & Stain**

Oil-based paints contain petroleum derived solvents such as mineral spirits, toluene and xylene. They are flammable and cannot be made non-hazardous. Oil-based paints can be identified by the words oil-base, alkyd, flammable or combustible on the label. Thinning and clean-up instructions will say to use paint thinner or mineral spirits. If the label is missing, put a drop of paint into a container of water and stir. If the paint is oil-based it will float on top of the water.

### **How to dispose of oil-based paint**

- Flammable products, such as oil-based paint and thinners should not be disposed of down a drain or in the garbage.
- Take oil-based paint and paint products to the City of Salina's Household Hazardous Waste facility.
- Empty cans may be disposed of in the garbage with the lids removed.