



Paint Disposal and Cleanup

Due to strict federal and state regulations for environmental protection and the District's regard for pollutants entering the wastewater treatment plant, the following procedures must be strictly adhered to for the disposal and cleanup of paint.

Disposal of unused paint:

- Use up or carefully store for future use any leftover paint.
- Do not dispose of excess paint to the sanitary sewer system or the storm drain system.
- Contractor job overages of latex paint can often be returned to the dealer for recycling. Contact your dealer for details.
- Use other recycling and disposal opportunities that exist:
 - Central Contra Costa County residents and businesses call 1-800-646-1431
 - East Contra Costa County residents and businesses call 1-925-756-1990
 - West Contra Costa County residents and businesses call 1-888-412-9277
- Small amounts of leftover latex paint can be applied to the surface of an item to be discarded, allowed to dry thoroughly, then disposed of in the garbage.

Paint Cleanup Wastes:

- Cleaning wastes from **oil-based** paints, buckets, brushes or tools shall **not** be discharged to the sanitary sewer system. Instead, cleaning wastes associated with oil-based paints shall either be recycled or disposed of by a registered waste hauler, or through a disposal program such as those identified above.
- Only cleaning wastes from brushes, rollers, buckets and tools contaminated with **latex** paints may be discharged to the sanitary sewer in small amounts provided that prohibited additives (e.g. fungicides containing tributyltin compounds) are not added (please see the "[Fact Sheet on Tributyltin](#)" brochure). Brushes, rollers, and tools containing latex paint may be washed over a sink with plenty of water. Buckets containing latex paint shall first be emptied into the original can or discarded as described above. The residual paint left in the bucket can then be cleaned with plenty of water into the sanitary sewer.
- Permission is given to discharge the paint equipment washing wastewater described above to the sanitary sewer system only.

Do not discharge any paint related wastes and wastewater to the storm (**outdoor**) drain system.

- Please note that should excessive amounts of paint or solvent be found in your wastewater discharge, you will be subject to enforcement action allowed by District Code that includes citation, fines, and potentially disconnection of sewer service.

If you have any questions, please call the District's Source Control Section at (925) 229-7288.