

Ever wondered what to do about leftover paint?

Too often paint sold needlessly ends up in landfills or dumped down drains; this contaminates wastewater treatment plants, rivers, lakes and groundwater. **Buy only what you need & use it up.** Estimate the amount needed by measuring the area to be painted and reading coverage on the label.

OIL OR LATEX?-READ THE LABEL

- ◆ Latex paints and stains are water based and clean up with soap and water
- ◆ Oil or Alkyd paints and stains are solvent based and clean up with paint thinner or mineral spirits
- ◆ If still uncertain add drops of water to the paint; if it readily dissolves, it's latex if it beads up it's oil based.

USE IT OR LOSE IT

- ◆ Avoid extreme temperatures. Latex gets chunky when frozen. Oil based paint is flammable
- ◆ Apply a second coat or touch up areas
- ◆ Neighbors, friends, service organizations, or Home Resources, a building materials reuse center, may take good latex paint
- ◆ Try placing a give-away ad in the newspaper – it's free!

AS A LAST RESORT....

- ◆ LATEX (not hazardous)
 - ◆ Dry out in a covered, ventilated area.
 - ◆ Paint cardboard!
 - ◆ Add kitty litter to absorb moisture. Throw away, with the lid off, WHEN DRY.

- ◆ OIL or ALKYD (hazardous)
 - ◆ NEVER THROW IN TRASH
 - ◆ Paint more cardboard!!
 - ◆ Bring it to the Household Hazardous Waste Collection, Sept 17-18

- ◆ SPRAY PAINT
 - ◆ Throw empty can away
 - ◆ If small amount remains, find that cardboard!
 - ◆ **Tip!** – To prevent a clogged nozzle, turn can upside down after use and lightly spray to clear nozzle

OTHER STICKY STUFF

- **Caulk, DAP, wood putty, glue....** Items meant to harden when used and cannot be given away can be dried out in a ventilated area protected from the weather.