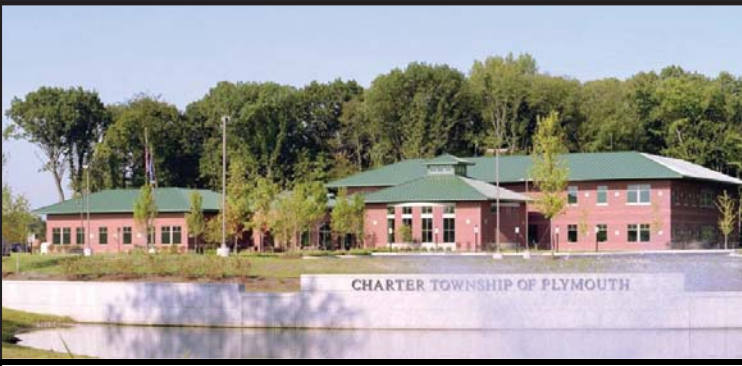


CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH FACT SHEET PAINT DISPOSAL



Talkin' Trash Series



Putting on a fresh coat of paint is a great way to make a new house your home or update the home you have lived in for years. No matter what your reasons for painting your house, indoor or out, you will undoubtedly have some left over paint when your job is done. Disposing of this leftover paint in a safe manner is important for keeping our roadways clean and our environment safe and healthy for generations to come.

There are two (2) types of paint, latex (water based) and oil based. Your options for disposal will vary based on the type of paint.

Disposal Options

Latex Paints

Latex paints are not considered hazardous and can be put out in your regular trash. Nonetheless, latex paints do contain chemicals and care should be taken to ensure that the paint does not leak out onto the roadways when they are compacted in the trash truck. They must be dried out first. See the recommendations below for drying out your paint.

Empty Container

If there is a thin layer of paint film on the can simply throw out the can. If it is a metal or a plastic can with a recycle symbol stamped on it **and** you can wash the paint clean off, you can recycle it in curbside container.



Less than One (1) Inch of Liquid Remaining

If there is about an inch or less of paint in the bottom, remove the lid and place the can in a well ventilated area away from children and pets. The paint should be dry within a few weeks and the can(s) can be placed at the curb with the lids off on your regular garbage day.



Several Inches of Liquid Remaining

If there are more than several inches left in the can we recommend adding kitty litter or other paint drying compounds available at local hardware stores to the liquid. Place the cans in a sunny, well ventilated area away from children and pets. It should be dry in a few days depending on the amount of paint. Place the cans out to the curb with the lids off on your regular trash collection day.



A Lot of Paint Cans to Dry Out

If you have a lot of cans to dry out, try this method. Pour paint from the cans into a five (5) gallon paint bucket or into a 3' x 3' cardboard box lined with a plastic bag. Add kitty litter or another absorbing agent and place the buckets or boxes in a sunny area away from children and pets, stirring frequently until the paint becomes a solid. Place the cans or boxes out to the curb on your regular trash collection day.



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Telling the Difference Between Latex or Oil Based Paints

Look for the word "latex" on the label. If you can't read the label or the label is missing, think about how you cleaned up after using the paint.

- If you simply used water to rinse your brushes and soap to wash up, then the paint is a latex or water-based product.
- If you used a paint thinner, mineral spirits or another substance to clean your brushes it is probably an oil-based product.

DISPOSAL OPTIONS Cont.

Oil Based Paints

Oil Based paints have solvents and additives that are considered to be hazardous and cannot be thrown out with your regular trash. These include a higher amount of volatile organic compounds (VOC's), many of which are known carcinogens. The US Environmental Protection Agency has more information at www.epa.gov.

There are two (2) best practices for disposing of your oil based paints and paint products:

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Oil-based and Latex Paints are accepted at household hazardous waste collections available to Plymouth Township Residents. The Township offers one (1) annual event in the springtime and Wayne County offers several events throughout the year. Check our web site for dates, times and locations of these events. Our web site is listed on the bottom of this fact sheet.

Take to a Licensed Collection Facility

There are several facilities in southeast Michigan that will accept oil based paints for disposal. All charge a small fee for disposal. Be sure you contact the location first to determine how much it will cost the hours of operation so you do not waste a trip.

The Environmental Recycling Group - ERG

Location - Livonia, MI
Phone - 734-437-9650

The Environmental Quality Company (EQ)

Location - Detroit/Ypsilanti, MI
Phone - 313-923-0080

Innovative Waste and Recycling Solutions (IRWS)

Location - Wixom, MI
Phone - 248-449-7216

DONATION OPTIONS

If you have a large quantity of usable paint consider donation. You can contact your church or service club or try one of the organizations listed below.

Habitat for Humanity

Location - Ann Arbor, MI
Phone - 734-822-1530

Habitat for Humanity

Location - Detroit, MI
Phone - 313-653-4890

Recycle Ann Arbor ReUse Store

Location - Ann Arbor, MI
Phone - 734-222-7880

