



**County of Santa Cruz
Department of Public Works**

Environmentally Responsible Painting

Facts About Paint Clean-Up

Cleaning up after painting generates wastes that need to be properly managed. Other wastes are generated from the painting process as well. The following waste management practices are recommended:

PAINT EQUIPMENT CLEAN-UP WASTES				
Source of waste	Concerns	Pollution Prevention tips	On-site management	Disposal or recycling options
Cleaning of sprayers, rollers and brushes after using solvent - based paints	Waste solvent is a flammable hazardous waste	Decant solvents after use. Reuse decanted solvent. Distill sludges or handle as a hazardous waste.	Soak equipment during transportation back to shop. Clean equipment at shop. Properly contain & label hazardous wastes. Use secondary containment.	Distill solvents and decanted solids on-site or off-site. You may drop-off up to 15 gallons of paint waste per visit at public hazardous waste facilities throughout the County. You must be able to certify that your business is a small quantity generator. See attached form and flyer for details.
Cleaning of sprayers, rollers and brushes after using latex or water-based coatings	Wash water contaminated with latex paint should not be disposed of on the ground, to septic system, storm drain, or swale.	Minimize generation of latex-contaminated wastewater.	Soak equipment during transportation back to shop. Clean equipment at shop. Pour down the sink or contain & evaporate off water.	Dispose latex wastewater to sewer or evaporate contained wastewater; remove solids; dispose of dried paint latex solids as solid waste.

Environmentally Responsible Painting (Continued)

Other Wastes				
Source of waste	Concerns	Pollution prevention tips	On-site management	Disposal or recycling options
Discarded solvent - based paints and thinners ¹	These are dangerous waste due to flammability, hazardous substances and heavy metals ² in the paint.	Switch to latex or water-based coatings. Only purchase enough paint for job. Return all unused paint. Donate left over paint.	Store solvent - based paints in fire proof cabinet if more than five gallons are accumulated.	You may drop-off up to 15 gallons of paint waste at public hazardous waste facilities throughout the county. You must be able to certify that your business is a small quantity generator. See attached form and flyer for details.
Spilled materials	Contaminating the environment is a danger to human health.	Use secondary containment to prevent spills. Reuse spilled materials. Have a spill kit available.	Use absorption materials for liquid spills. Contain and label. Dispose of all spill material properly.	Determine if material is a hazardous waste. If hazardous, label and dispose to at the County of Santa Cruz Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility or use a hazardous waste disposal firm. Dispose of non-hazardous waste in trash.
Discarded latex or water based coatings	Liquid latex or water-based coatings can not be disposed of on ground, in solid waste, sewer, septic system, storm drain, or swale.	Only purchase enough paint for job. Return all unused paint. Leave left over paint with customer or donate.	Store latex paints and water-based coatings in secondary containment. Do not let usable paint freeze. Store cans upside down with plastic wrap under lid.	Dry unusable and small amounts of leftover latex paint waste in can and dispose as solid waste. Dispose of unwanted usable latex paint at County of Santa Cruz Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility for reprocessing and reuse.

¹ Solvents and oil based paints are considered hazardous as defined by Federal and state regulations. 40 CFR 261 subtitles C&D of the Resource Conservation Recovery Act and Title 22 CCR 66261.3

² Includes: lead, mercury, chromium, cadmium, zinc, and copper

For further assistance in reducing and properly managing your paint clean-up wastes call the Santa Cruz County Sanitation District at **831.477.3907** or the Santa Cruz County Household Hazardous Waste Facility at **831.454.2606**.