

## Latex Based Paints

Latex paint is also known as water-based, acrylic or emulsion paint. It is comprised mostly of water and is NOT considered a hazardous waste. It can be safely discarded in household trash provided that it is solidified.

If you are unsure if your paint is latex paint, look at the clean-up instructions. Latex paint will instruct you to use "detergent and water" or "soap and water". Oil based will require you to use solvents and chemicals in the cleaning process.

Latex paint is **NOT** accepted at the Household Hazardous Waste Facility. Please use one of the methods below to solidify or dry your paint.

## Latex Based Paint

**Air Dry:** Remove the lid and allow the liquid to evaporate. This works well for small quantities of paint, generally an inch or two at the bottom of the can. This can take several days for fully dry.

**Use a Dry Agent:** Mix an absorbent material into the paint and allow it to dry. These materials include cat litter, sawdust and plaster of Paris. Paint and hardware stores also sell "waste paint hardeners". Drying times for the paint vary depending on the type of material used and the quantities of paint and absorbent material.

**Pour Thin Layers:** Pour about 1 inch layers into a cardboard box with a plastic liner. Allow the paint to dry one layer at a time until all the paint has hardened. Once all of the paint has hardened, the box can be thrown out in the garbage.

**Once the paint is thoroughly dry, keep the lid off and place it in your curbside garbage.**

## PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

### DO NOT

dump the paint on the ground or down a storm drain where it will travel to the surface water (lake, pond, stream, etc.) or ground water.

### DO NOT

pour paint down the drain in your home or business. Paint can cause damage to septic and sewer systems.



### DO NOT

throw liquid paint in the garbage. It is illegal and paint can leak from the garbage truck onto Borough streets. Paint on the roadway is slippery and can cause an accident or can be washed into a storm drain, polluting a waterway.

### DO NOT

put illegal or hazardous materials into the garbage or recycling as you will be responsible for the cost of cleaning up the spill or contamination.

These costs can run into the tens of thousands of dollars and in extreme cases nearing a million dollars.

Most homeowners insurance policies will not cover this.



### Monmouth County Board of County Commissioners

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