



HOW TO DISPOSE OF LEFTOVER PAINTS

You can help Bourne avoid the cost of disposing of paints through household hazardous waste collections and reduce the amount of leftover paint in your home by trying these methods:

Use Paint Up Or Share It: Before you buy new paint, try to use up what you already have. Leftover paint can be used as a prime coat or to paint items where matching colors is not a concern. Ask a neighbor, friend or community group if they can use the paint. Service organizations, group homes, theater groups or recreation departments may be able to use it.

Evaporate Paint: Latex paint may be disposed of by allowing the liquid to evaporate. Once the liquid evaporates, the remaining solids are safe to dispose of in the trash. Small quantities of oil-based paint may also be disposed of after allowing the liquid to evaporate. To evaporate paint—move the container to a sheltered, secure outdoor area away from children and pets; remove the lid and allow liquid to dry. Discard the *open* can in the trash.

Absorb Paint: Larger quantities of paint, more than two inches in the bottom of a can, may be absorbed with a clay-based kitty litter or similar absorbent. Pour kitty litter into the paint can and stir until all liquid is absorbed. Dispose of the *open* can in the trash. Paint may be dried more quickly by pouring it into a cardboard box or bucket filled with kitty litter, stirring the kitty litter as paint is added. When the paint is fully absorbed, put the box with the kitty litter into a trash bag and dispose of in the trash.

Empty Containers: An empty container is one that has less than one inch of residue in the bottom of the can. Leave the lid off the can to dry the remaining paint, then throw the *open* can in the trash. Empty paint and aerosol cans should be disposed of in household trash. Recycle cans with no remaining paint residue with scrap metal or cans at Bourne's recycling area.



Barnstable County
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS PROGRAM

Collaborating with the University of Massachusetts Extension

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