Hazardous Paints - Oil based and marine paints are flammable and may contain lead, mercury, chromium or cadmium, which are toxic to humans, animals and the environment, as well as organic compounds (VOCs) that vaporize at room temperature; vapors may be toxic when inhaled.

If you see any of these words on the label, it’s Hazardous! Combustible, Oil, Alkyd, Petroleum Distillates, Mineral Spirits, Linseed Oil, Hydrocarbons, Solvent-based, Lacquer, Thinner, Lead, Chromium, Two-part paint, Car or Boat paint, Swimming Pool paint.

Full or partially full cans should be taken to your local household hazardous waste collection event.

Small quantities—less than two inches in the bottom of a can—of oil based, latex, or acrylic paints may be disposed of by allowing the liquid to evaporate. Move the container to a sheltered, outdoor area away from children and pets; remove the lid and allow liquid to dry. Once the liquid evaporates, recycle the open can.

Non-Hazardous Paints - Latex or acrylic paint, stains and wood finishes are not hazardous and can be disposed of in the trash if dry. Large quantities of latex or acrylic paint can be absorbed with clay-based kitty litter. Pour kitty litter into a box or container, then pour the paint into the container and stir. Add kitty litter until you can’t stir anymore. Put the container with the absorbed paint into the trash.

Usable Paint Collection Locations:

Several towns accept usable paints, stains, and wood finishes at their local recycling center for reuse. Some restrictions apply, so please call ahead for details. Updated in April 2015.

Bourne - (Apr. 3 - Oct. 17), Fri. & Sat. only, 7am - 3pm, 10 can max per day.

Barnstable - (Apr. - Oct.), 1st Sat. of month

Dennis - (Apr. - Oct.), 1st Sat. of month.

Brewster - (Apr. - Oct.), Ask attendant

Harwich - (Apr. 1 - Oct. 31)

Chatham - (May 1 - Oct. 31)

Orleans - Twice a year, 2nd Sat. of June & Oct.

Wellfleet - (May - Oct.), 3rd Sat. of month, 9am - 2pm

Truro - (May - Oct.), Latex paint only