

Keeping Clean Solutions

Paint Spills

Keep all liquid paint products and wastes away from the gutter, street, and storm drains. Liquid residues from paints, thinners, solvents, glues, and cleaning fluids are hazardous wastes and must be disposed of at a hazardous waste collection facility.



- Contain the spill. Pour kitty litter, sawdust or cedar chips around the entire perimeter to stop the spreading.
- Mop up any excess liquid. Paper plates, folded in half to create a scoop, are great for mopping up wet paint.
- Blot—don't wipe the remaining stain with a flat sponge or rag.
- Use hot soapy water on water-based paints and hot water or paint thinner on oil-based or solvent-based paints.

Storage

Seal the paint can properly before you put it away to keep the paint from drying up. If any paint has gotten in the grooves of the paint can, wipe it with a clean rag. Use a rubber mallet to tap the lid down securely.

Paint should be stored in a dry location where temperatures are above freezing and there are no excessive temperature swings. Metal paint cans should be stored on wood or plastic shelving rather than on cement floors to minimize rusting.

Disposal of Paint Materials

Failure to consider safe paint material storage and disposal can lead to quality issues, wasted costs, and serious health risks. By taking a closer look at quality and safety standards, businesses can better protect the environment.

Here are considerations in the disposal of paint materials:

Latex paints - Stir cat litter into the paint until it thickens and will not spill. Seal can and dispose at a recycling center.

Oil-Based Paints - Oil-based paints are considered hazardous waste and must be taken to a recycling center.

Consider donating your paint to a community center, charity, place of worship, or Habitat for Humanity ReStore. They're often working on projects with a limited budget and could use the extra supplies.



For more information from Charlotte County:



To report illicit discharge of paint materials: 1.866.Y.DUMP.CC (1.866.938.6722)

Web Site:

www.charlottecountyfl.gov/services/engineering/pages/stormwater-NPDES-public-education-outreach

For questions about specific paint storage and handling, call: 941.575.3632

For other information: Public Works 941.575.3600 or Solid Waste Division 941.764.4380

STORAGE, USE, AND DISPOSAL OF PAINT PRODUCTS

The environmental impact of paint is diverse. Traditional painting materials and processes can have harmful effects on the environment. Measures can be taken to reduce environmental impacts by use of environmentally preferred paints, coating, and painting accessories. These materials should be recycled when possible, or disposed of properly. Disposing of these materials to storm drains or creeks causes serious problems and is prohibited by law. As a distributor of paint material, you as a paint distributor have a responsibility to protect your community.



Sales & handling of Paint Materials

Paint is a common product sold to commercial painters and the public. The handling of paint materials is important to protect people and the environment from adverse affects. One gallon of improperly disposed paint has the ability to pollute up to 250,000 gallons of water.

Painting materials are considered hazardous waste when not properly stored or disposed.

Those that sell paint products should be aware of the need for safe handling within their facilities. Proper training of employees is imperative to a safe operation and protection of the environment.

Failure to consider safe material storage can lead to quality issues, wasted costs in material and serious health risks. By taking a closer look at quality and safety standards, businesses can better optimize their entire finishing process for consistent quality and a safer work environment.



Paint, Pollution & the Environment

If we knew the harm paint could do, perhaps we'd seek safer paint options.

Lead in paints was the major problem, but in most countries the use of lead based paints is now banned.

Volatile organic compounds (VOC's) are produced by many products, continue to be emitted after the paint has dried. VOC's released into the environment can contaminate soil and groundwater.

Aside from VOC's, some paints contain ethylene glycol, mold inhibitors, toxic binding agents, and formaldehyde – ingredients that may not even be mentioned on the can.

Most paint has four components: resin, solvent, pigment and additives.

The resin is the main ingredient and forms a coating or film on the surface being painted.

The solvent keeps the paint in a liquid form. The solvent in oil-based paint is derived from a petroleum distillate where as the solvent in latex paint is water.

Pigments provide color and opacity. These pigments are relatively nontoxic.

Paint may also have additives. Some types of additives include stabilizers that prevent paint deterioration in the can, dryers that assist in the formation of the paint coating, thickeners that aid in application, and preservatives that inhibit the growth of molds.



Best Management Practices

It is critical to handle paint materials properly for the safety of your shop and employees.

Establish training that provides employees with the proper tools and knowledge to immediately begin cleaning up a spill.

Training of employees is imperative. There are basic best management practices (BMPs) that can be utilized to avoid health and environmental impacts. from paint products.

- Mix paints and solvents in designated areas away from drains, ditches and surface waters.
- Have absorbent or other cleanup materials readily available for immediate cleanup of spills.
- Keep lids on containers of solvents and paints to prevent evaporation of volatile organic compounds to the atmosphere.
- When mixing paint colors, only mix the amount needed for that specific job.
- Properly dispose of paint waste .

Wastewater from cleanup of latex paint on brushes, rollers and tools used may be discharged to the sanitary sewer. Never pour excess paint into the storm drain or sanitary sewer. Excess paint in buckets must be removed and properly handled as leftover paint prior to washing paint buckets.

