

How do I dispose of Latex Paint?

Latex (water-based) paint can be cleaned up with soap and water and is not hazardous waste in Ohio and most other places once fully solidified. Liquid paint cannot go in the trash. Here's how to dry latex paint, quickly, compared to just letting it air-dry:

* Fastest / preferred methods

- Paint hardener** (Homax, DAP, M-1, or similar packets at hardware stores): Pour the powder into the can, stir thoroughly. Most packets solidify up to about $\frac{3}{4}$ gallon in 15–20 minutes. Add more if still soft. This is the cleanest and quickest option for larger amounts.

- Clay-based kitty litter** (non-clumping preferred), sawdust, shredded newspaper, or oil-dry: Mix in an equal volume (or enough to absorb all liquid). Stir completely to the bottom. Hardens in a few hours to 1–2 days depending on amount and conditions. Use a larger container (plastic-lined cardboard box or bucket) if the can is more than half full.

*For small amounts only

- Less than $\sim\frac{1}{4}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$ inch left in the can: Remove the lid and let it air-dry in a well-ventilated area away from children and pets. Stir occasionally. Can take several days.

*Once solid

- Confirm it is completely hard (no liquid or soft spots; some check by carefully inverting the can).

- Leave the lid off so the hauler can see it is dry, then place it in regular household trash.

Do the work outdoors or in a well-ventilated garage/shed. Never pour liquid latex paint down drains, onto the ground, or into storm sewers. Oil-based paint is different and must go to household hazardous waste collection.