

Latex/Acrylic Paint Disposal Guide

How do I know if my paint is latex/acrylic?

- 🖌️ **Look for Key Words:** look for “latex,” “water-based,” or “acrylic” on the can. Non-latex paint will say “oil based” or “alkyd.”
- 🖌️ **Check Cleanup Instructions:** if you can’t find “latex,” “water-based” or “acrylic,” check for cleanup instructions. Latex paint cleans up with soap and water. Oil-based paint requires paint thinner, turpentine, mineral spirits, or solvent.



What if I still can't tell if it is latex/acrylic?

If you can't read the label, assume the paint is oil-based and bring it to a Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) event.

How do I dispose of unwanted latex/acrylic paint?

First, if the paint is in good condition, ask friends and family if they need any paint for a project. If not, latex paint is **not** accepted at HHW events, but you can safely dispose of it yourself.

Liquid paint cannot be thrown away. Instead, dry it out using the following techniques. Once dried, latex paint and cans may be taken to your local transfer station or landfill.

- 🖌️ If very little paint remains, remove the lid and allow the paint to air dry.
- 🖌️ If the paint can is less than 1/4 full, harden the remaining paint using an absorbent material such as kitty litter, newspaper, or sawdust.
- 🖌️ For larger quantities, line a cardboard box with plastic and fill with a thin layer of paint (about 1 inch deep). Add shredded newspaper and allow paint to harden. Repeat this process one layer at a time until all of the paint has hardened. You can also purchase a waste paint hardener at home improvement stores to help dry latex paint.



Why can't I bring my latex/acrylic paint to a household hazardous waste event?

Today's latex paint has a low level of toxicity and **when dried** is not considered household hazardous waste.

Disposing of it through a household hazardous waste event is very expensive, so we ask residents with unwanted latex/acrylic paint to use other options.

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collections

for residents of Amherst, Brookline, Hollis, Hudson, Litchfield, Merrimack, Milford, Mont Vernon, Nashua, Pelham, and Windham
Visit www.nashuarpc.org/hhw or scan code:

