



FACT SHEET

Paint disposal



Keep green in mind when preparing to paint your home -- green as in protecting your family's health and the environment.

Seek professional help when removing lead-based paint.

Homes built before 1978 often have paint that contains high levels of lead, a hazardous material that is especially harmful to children. For more information, go to the Cabinet for Health and Family Services lead abatement site

<http://chfs.ky.gov/dph/lead.htm>, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) site

<https://www.epa.gov/lead/evaluating-and-eliminating-lead-based-paint-hazards> or contact your local health department.

Buy only enough for the job. An EPA study issued in April 2007 estimates that about 10 percent of the U.S. house paint purchased each year - about 65 to 69 million gallons - is ultimately discarded. To help you buy just enough, Earth 911 -- <http://www.earth911.org> -- lists several paint calculators online on its Paint Wise page.

Use up leftover paint or share with others. Use leftover paint for base coats and small projects like touch-up jobs. Combine smaller quantities of the same type of paint (latex + latex, oil-based + oil-based) to use where color doesn't matter. Avoid storing paint in extreme heat or cold.

Larger amounts of usable paint could be donated to a charitable agency. For example:

- Housing Assistance and Development Services Inc. (HANDS), 1335 Adams St., Bowling Green, 270-796-4176, <http://www.handsinc.net/>.
- Habitat for Humanity's ReStore, 2777 S. Floyd St., Louisville, Ky., directly across from Gate 1 of Papa John's Cardinal Stadium, 502-637-6265. <http://www.hfhloisville.org/>
- Habitat's Renovation Station in 1260 Industry Road, Lexington, Ky. 859-254-6724. <http://www.lexhabitat.com/renovationstation/>

Another way to share -- have a neighborhood "paint swap." For "how to" information, go to http://www.paint.org/con_info/exchange_guide.cfm

Dispose of the rest responsibly. For specific information about disposal in your area, contact the [solid waste coordinator](#) in your county.

Some general disposal guidelines:

- Don't pour paint down the drain (it can harden and stop up your plumbing or kill the bacteria in your septic tank) or on the ground.
- Add a thickener (Waste Paint Hardener™ crystals, cat box litter, sand, dry dirt, etc.) to small amounts of latex or water-based paint and let the paint dry outside out of reach of pets and children. After the paint is solid and is not pourable, set the open can out for garbage pickup.
- Oil-based paint should not be allowed to evaporate. The fumes are toxic and flammable. Contact your local solid waste coordinator to find out the preferred manner of handling oil-based paint.

Kentucky Division of Waste Management

300 Sower Boulevard, 2nd Floor

Frankfort, KY 40601

Phone: 502-564-6716 Fax: 502-564-4245

Telecommunications device for the deaf/hard-of-hearing: 502-564-0172

E-mail: waste@ky.gov Web site: <http://www.waste.ky.gov/>

The Division of Waste Management does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability or veteran status. The division provides, on request, reasonable accommodations necessary to afford an individual with a disability an equal opportunity to participate in all services, programs and activities. To request materials in an alternate format, contact the division. Printed with state funds on recycled paper / January 2017



April 2017