LATEX PAINT
You CAN get rid of it!!!

Safe and easy disposal of latex paint can be a challenge, especially with large numbers of cans. Many public collection sites are not anxious to take it, and you are strongly discouraged from dumping it down drains or on the ground.

Latex paint is NOT a hazardous waste (it is a water-based product), but it is a liquid waste that must be properly disposed. Dumped illegally, it can plug septic fields, overload sewage treatment plants, and create environmental messes on the ground. Here are some options to consider:

10 Cans or Less

1. Purchase a commercial paint hardener and follow the label directions. These products are available at hardware stores and home improvement centers for $ 1 or $ 2 per pack. Once the paint has hardened, place the can in the trash.
2. Open can lids and expose the paint to sun and warm temperatures. This technique works best in the summer and with small amounts of leftover paint. Place the can in the trash after the paint has hardened.
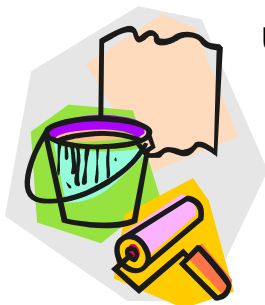
10 to 25 Cans

3. Line one or two medium-size boxes with thicker sheet plastic. Pour contents of cans into boxes. Add an absorbing agent such as kitty litter, vermiculite, or ground corn cobs. Place the boxes in the sun or a warm area and stir frequently until the paint hardens. Toss boxes in the trash once the mixture is dry. This same technique works with 5 gallon plastic pails.

More Than 25 Cans

4. Follow the technique outlined in step 3, but use a larger number of boxes. Or contact Veolia Environmental Services at 920-387-0987 to see what other options are available in your area.

Unwanted latex paint should be considered as a reusable resource. Properly stored latex paint can be given away to civic organizations or non-profit agencies for use at housing projects or as exterior primer coats. Properly stored latex paint can also be reprocessed and resold as recycled paints. Buy some and try it out! Remember that empty, brush-wiped metal cans can be recycled; don't toss them out.