

Painting may generate wastes that are hazardous to your health and to the environment. Excess paint, used paint thinner, cleanup water and wastes from prep work (paint chips and scrapings) can contaminate water running off your property if disposed or improperly. **Follow these tips to prevent pollution of local wetlands and waterways!**

Before Painting

- Minimize painting waste by buying only as much paint and materials as needed. This will generate less waste and decrease the amount of leftover materials that will require proper disposal.
- Don't use paints made prior to 1978 as they may contain toxic levels of lead.

Paint Removal

- Avoid using chemical paint strippers since their residue is a hazardous waste. For disposal information, see the box to the right.
- Avoid generating large amounts of wastewater by wet scraping rather than pressure washing.
- If pressure washing is required prior to painting, only pressure wash homes and buildings if they were built after 1978.
- Chips and dust from marine paints or paints containing lead or tributyl tin are hazardous wastes. Do not use water to wash off these paints. Use dry methods only and dispose of wastes as hazardous waste.
- Sweep up paint chips and dust from non-hazardous dry stripping and sand blasting and place in the trash.
- When stripping or cleaning building exteriors with high-pressure water, direct washwater to landscaping and block storm drains to keep washwater out.

While Painting

- Liquid residues from paints, thinners, solvents, glues and cleaning fluids are hazardous. Keep them away from the street, gutter and storm drains.
- Brush as much paint as possible from brushes before rinsing them.
- Avoid using oil-based paints. If possible, use latex products.

Cleaning Up

- Drain and recycle excess paint from spray equipment prior to washing equipment with water.
- Thoroughly dried latex rags, drop cloths and disposable brushes may be placed in the trash. Avoid throwing away any items that still have wet paint on them.
- Never wash brushes and equipment in the gutter. Instead, rinse latex paint from brushes into sinks so that the wastewater goes into the sewer.
- Scoop excess dried latex paint out of paint cans, then place them in the recycling bin.
- Recycle empty spray cans and empty and paint cans (once the paint in the can dries) using your local curbside recycling program.
- Excess latex and oil based paints can be recycled for free with hazardous waste (see above) or at the Kelly-Moore store in Davis. Find additional paint recycling locations at PaintCare.org/drop-off-sites.
- If possible, reuse paint thinner. Let any particles left in the thinner settle out. Then pour off the clear thinner for re-use. Dispose of contaminated thinner with other household hazardous wastes.
- Reuse leftover paint for touch-ups.



Hazardous Waste Disposal

Yolo County residents can bring household hazardous wastes, including paint waste, paint thinners and other toxic items to the Yolo Landfill for free every Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Businesses may use the County's business hazardous waste program, fees apply.

Learn more at YoloCounty.org/Landfill

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