

# Leftover Household Paint

## Planning some painting in the near future?

Got a few tins of leftover paint stored in the shed or garage and don't know what to do with them?

The Rivers Regional Council (RRC) has prepared this easy disposal guide to assist householders with the **correct way to dispose of leftover household paint**.

## Eco Paint Tips:

**Waste Not, Want Not** – Purchase only as much paint as you need. Resist the temptation to bulk buy at a reduced price, this is false economy and impacts adversely on the environment. Purchase leftover paint from Hopkinson Rd Landfill Facility in Armadale.

**Store Correctly** – Put the lid securely on the paint tin. Cover the can in plastic wrap. Store can for short periods only upside down at room temperature away from children and pets.

Be creative and use leftover paint for undercoat instead of purchasing more paint. Mix paints of the same type to create new colours for another use.

Donate leftover paint to charities, sporting groups or theatre groups. See if the neighbours need any paint.

Please do not place leftover liquid paint into your household bins. Paint can cause considerable damage to the rubbish truck, the paint can leak onto the roadway or it can contaminate a whole load of recyclable material.



## If there are no other options, follow these simple steps to dispose of household paint.

1. For Water based paint, where there is a small amount of paint in the tin, take the lid off the tin and place it outside away from children and pets to let it dry out. Do not do this inside as it affects the air quality of your home. Once the paint is dry, put the lid tightly on the tin and place it in the general rubbish bin.

2. For larger amounts of Water and Oil based paint, place absorbent material such as kitty litter or shredded paper into a cardboard box and pour paint into it. Wipe excess paint from the tin with paper and dispose of paper in the box. Place the box in the general rubbish bin. Put the lid tightly on the tin and place it in the general rubbish bin.

3. Place empty paint tins in the general rubbish bin with the lid firmly on the tin to prevent any residue leaking.

4. Ask at your local landfill/transfer station or drop-off facility if they will accept leftover paint. There may be a small charge for this. At the Hopkinson Road, Armadale Landfill Facility, you can purchase good quality leftover paint for a fraction of the cost of new paint.

5. Some Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days will currently accept limited amounts of leftover household paint.

Remember this is a last resort and it is better for the environment to reduce the amount used and to put leftover paint to good use.

## Some facts about paint.

There are basically two types of paint, water based and oil based and each has a number of variations depending on the application:

- Water based, or acrylic latex, vinyl acrylic and latex paint**  
Acrylic latex paint is a paint made with a water base and an acrylic resin binder such as polymers or elastomers.
- Oil-based, or alkyd, paint**  
Oil-based paint is made with a hydrocarbon-based solvent and an alkyd, or polyester resin binder.

Paint can be a hazardous substance. It contains a cocktail of chemicals. Paint produced before 1992 may contain mercury and paint from the 1970s or earlier may contain lead.

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) are recognised by the characteristic odour given off from a freshly painted room and are released into the air during painting, when the paint is drying and for years after application.

**Protect yourself and others when handling paints. Look for alternatives such as Eco paints (plant and mineral based paints) and low or no VOC paints.**

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Our Environment!