



Calvert County Environmental Commission

Household Paint Waste Disposal

1. *Can used paint be disposed of with household trash?*

It depends on the type of paint. Latex (“water-based”) paint can be dried and disposed with household waste. Other paints—oil-based, polyurethane, varnishes—are hazardous and should be taken to household hazardous waste collections. Read the label to determine which kind of paint you have.

2. *Latex paint disposal*

If there is only a small amount paint in the can:

- Open the can and leave it in a safe, well ventilated space under cover so rain cannot get into the can;
- Allow the paint to dry solid; then
- Place the lid back on the can and dispose of it as household trash.

If the can contains more than a small amount of paint:

- Open the can in a safe, well ventilated space;
- Carefully mix in kitty litter, mulch, dirt or sand until it becomes a thick consistency without overflowing;
- Allow the paint mixture to dry to a semi-solid consistency, similar to peanut butter; then
- Place the lid back on the can and dispose of it as household trash.

If the paint can is full, or you cannot dry it out, close the lid and dispose of the can during one of the Household Hazardous Waste collection events as described in the oil-based paint section.

3. *Oil-based and polyurethane paint, Rust-Oleum, stains, and varnish disposal*

These materials are household hazardous waste (HHW) and cannot be disposed of as normal trash. Instead, residential HHW can be disposed of at no charge to county residents on scheduled HHW collection days. Upcoming HHW collection days are typically posted at the county convenience centers and are listed on the Solid Waste Division’s website (<https://www.calvertcountymd.gov/127/Solid-Waste-and-Recycling>).

4. *Spray paint*

If the can is empty, it may be recycled with metal recycling. If full, it should be disposed of with household hazardous wastes on designated collection days.

5. *Paint thinners, stains, varnishes, mineral spirits, turpentine*

These materials are household hazardous waste *and should be disposed of with household hazardous wastes on designated collection days.*

This document was written by the Environmental Commission for informational purposes only and is not official Calvert County policy.