

## Latex Paint is not Hazardous- But it is Expensive for Clean Sweep

### DID YOU KNOW THAT. . .

- Clean Sweep receives over **500,000** pounds of latex paint every year?
- Latex paint, by weight and volume is the **largest amount of waste** taken to Clean Sweep?
- Since latex paint is NOT a hazardous material it doesn't have to go to Clean Sweep for disposal?

With increasing disposal costs, Clean Sweep might have to begin charging fees for our services in the future. Following the tips below on the proper disposal of latex paint will lower the volume of what we receive, which will lower our operating costs and help keep our program and services free to consumers.

### LATEX PAINT TIPS

- Buy only what you need to get the job done.
  - » Retailers can help you calculate how much you need.
  - » In general, one gallon provides one coat for 300 square feet.
- Use up what you have-apply another coat.
- If you still have paint left, give it to someone who can use it-like:  
*Friends, relatives, neighbors, churches, theater groups, schools, recreation departments or community organizations.*
- Only give away paint still in good condition and in its original container with an intact label.
- If the can is mostly full, Clean Sweep will put it in the product exchange to be given away.
- Store paint properly between uses.
  - » Protect it from freezing.
  - » Place a piece of plastic kitchen wrap on the paint surface to keep it from drying out or forming a skin.

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## Proper Disposal of Latex Paint

### PUT SOLIDIFIED LATEX PAINT (it is non-toxic) IN THE GARBAGE IF

- You confirm from the label that it is actually latex paint. (If the directions say you can thin it or clean it up with water, it is latex).
  - » Leftover oil-based or combustible paints and stains (liquid or solid) should be taken to Clean Sweep.

### TO SOLIDIFY THE LATEX PAINT

- Remove the lid and let the paint dry out in the can.
  - » Protect the can from freezing and rain, and keep it safe from children and animals.
  - » This method only works when there is less than half a can of paint left, and is most effective in the warmer months.
  - » You can mix the left over paint with an equal amount of cat litter or other absorbent. Stir it in and allow it to dry completely.
  - » You can mix the paint with latex paint hardener. Just stir it in and allow the paint to dry.
- Hardeners are available at your local hardware stores. Be sure to follow the directions on the label.

### ONCE THE PAINT IS HARDENED

- Put the latex paint in the trash with the lids off.
  - » They can go in a trash cart if you have automated pick up, or
  - » Place lidless cans at the curb if you don't have automated pick-up.



For more information, or if you have any questions, please call the Madison/Dane County Clean Sweep at (608) 243-0368 or call your local trash hauler.

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