



DISPOSING OF PAINT THE RIGHT WAY IN MADISON COUNTY

1. **Figure it Out-** Determine if the paint is latex or oil-based. Latex paint is called “water based” and cleans up with water. Oil-based paint, also called “alkyd” paint, cleans up with solvent instead of water. Oil-based paint should be saved for household hazardous waste collection events held in Jackson.
2. **Use it Up-** Be a wise consumer and buy only the paint that is needed. Remember that one gallon of paint will cover between 250 and 350 square feet, depending on how porous the surface is to be covered.
3. **Pass it On-** Check with local civic groups or even a neighbor that might need some extra paint.
4. **DRY IT UP-NEVER PUT LIQUID PAINT INTO THE TRASH OR DOWN THE DRAIN!**

Follow these simple steps:

- **Air drying is acceptable for an inch or less of latex paint. Just remove the lid and let the paint dry in a well ventilated area. Be sure to keep away from pets or small children.**
- **Commercial hardeners are available at most hardware and home supply stores. Shredded newspaper, sawdust, and mulch may also be used when solidifying paint.**
- **Kitty litter may also be used and is the least expensive method to dry paint. Just pour the kitty litter into the can of latex paint, stir, and let it dry. Wait an hour and add more kitty litter if necessary until the paint is solidified.**
- **If the can of latex paint is too full to add solidifiers, line a cardboard box with a plastic trash bag. Pour the latex paint into the box one layer at a time. Add a solidifying agent, such as kitty litter, in between layers. When the paint is dry, tie the trash bag and place in the regular trash.**
- **Never pour paint into storm drains, a sink or a toilet, since this can harm sewage treatment systems and create environmental hazards for both humans and wildlife. Remember that this process works for latex paint only.**
- **Any oil-based (alkyd) paint should be saved for household hazardous waste events or you can call (731) 425-8545 for the City of Jackson oil-based paint and stain drop off.**