

What should you do with hazardous waste?

Hazardous Waste is a term that describes waste that should not be included with household trash. Illinois law requires hazardous waste to be handled and disposed of with more care. They cannot be placed with household trash. Hazardous waste are things that can start fires, corrode metal, cause explosions or toxic fumes, or be toxic when eaten or absorbed.

Some examples of hazardous waste include:

- ❖ Paint thinners and solvents
- ❖ Drain cleaners
- ❖ Glues and adhesives
- ❖ Pesticides
- ❖ Antifreeze
- ❖ Batteries
- ❖ Electronics
- ❖ Household cleaners
- ❖ Oil based paints

LATEX PAINT is NOT considered hazardous because it is water-based and has a very low level of toxicity. The Environmental Protection Agency encourages everyone to do one of the following with their latex paint:

1. Use the entire amount or share it with someone who can use it.
2. Paint cardboard or scrap lumber and let it dry. Then throw it away.
3. Use kitty litter, sawdust or shredded paper to absorb the moisture from the paint. When dried, throw it out.
4. Save the rest for later touch-ups. Just cover the opening with plastic wrap and then fit the lid securely so that it doesn't leak. Turn the paint can upside down to create a tight seal and keep the paint fresh.

STARTING DECEMBER 2025 there will be a convenient paint recycling program starting in Illinois. The program will be funded by a new PaintCare Fee that must be added by the manufacturer to pay for paint collecting and recycling, consumer education and program administration. Most PaintCare drop-off sites are paint retailers such as Sherwin Williams and Ace Hardware. The drop-off sites will display the PaintCare logo below. All sites will accept up to 5 gallons of paint and the service is free of charge.

