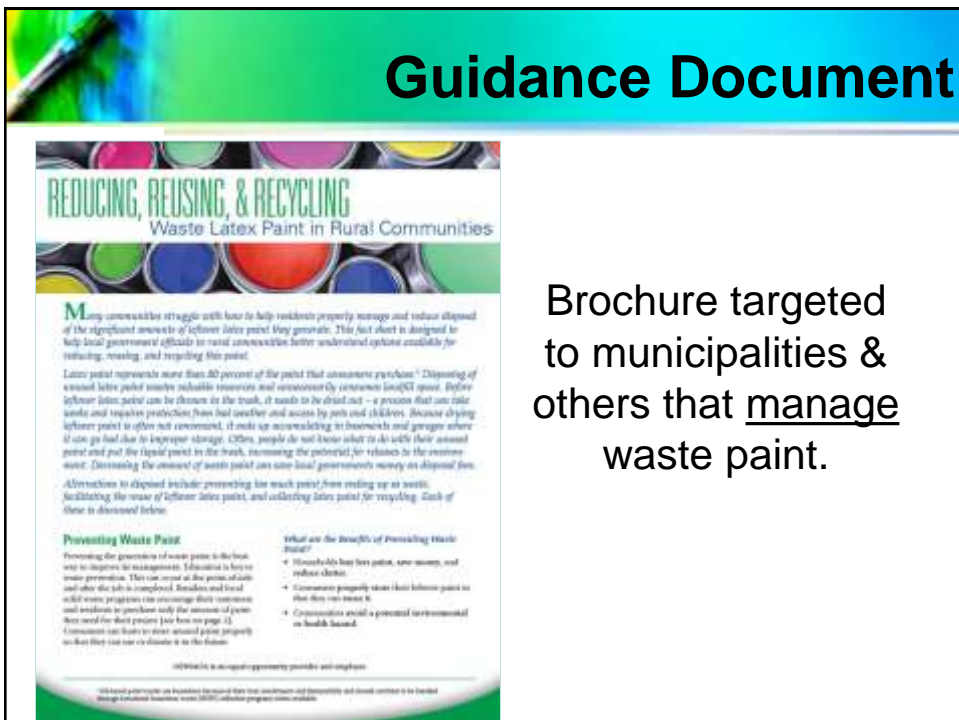




Outreach Materials Managing Unused Latex Paint

October 1st – Melrose, NY

Guidance Document



REDUCING, REUSING, & RECYCLING
Waste Latex Paint in Rural Communities

Many communities struggle with how to help residents properly manage and reduce disposal of the significant amounts of leftover latex paint they generate. This fact sheet is designed to help local government officials in rural communities better understand options available for reducing, reusing, and recycling this paint.

Latex paint represents more than 80 percent of the paint that consumers purchase. Disposing of unused latex paint involves valuable resources and unnecessarily consumes landfill space. Before leftover latex paint can be thrown in the trash, it needs to be dried out – a process that can take weeks and requires protection from bad weather and access by pets and children. Because drying leftover paint is often not convenient, it ends up accumulating in basements and garages where it can go bad due to improper storage. Often, people do not know what to do with their unused paint and put the liquid paint in the trash, increasing the potential for releases to the environment. Decreasing the amount of waste paint can save local governments money on disposal fees.

Alternatives to disposal include: preventing leftover paint from ending up as waste; facilitating the reuse of leftover latex paint; and collecting latex paint for recycling. Each of these is discussed below.

Preventing Waste Paint

Preventing the generation of waste paint is the best way to improve its management. Education is key to waste prevention. This can occur at the point of sale and after the job is completed. Residents and local small businesses can encourage their customers and vendors to purchase only the amount of paint they need for their projects (see box on page 1). Consumers can learn to store unused paint properly so that they can use or donate it in the future.

What are the benefits of Preventing Waste Paint?

- Households buy less paint, save money, and reduce clutter.
- Consumers properly store their leftover paint so that they can reuse it.
- Communities avoid a potential environmental or health hazard.

Additional information is available at www.epa.gov/paint and www.epa.gov/paintrecycling.

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Brochure targeted to municipalities & others that manage waste paint.

Consumer Fact Sheet



TIPS for Minimizing Paint Waste

Many people find that properly managing paint waste is a hassle – at the very least inconvenient. If you face this problem, try to minimize the amount of leftover paint by knowing your coverage requirements ahead of time and buying only what you need, and correctly clean your leftover paint so that it can be reused.

Buying the Right Amount of Paint

By purchasing only what you need, you will save money and reduce the chance for your home or storage area before going to the store. Ask a retailer to give the contractor how much paint you need. Ask others how the job unfolded.

- How many coats of paint do you need to apply?
- Are there colors, sheens, and the Room Dimensions and so forth to consider?
- Are you looking for a color that is different and bright and will be used in all the rooms?

Use these pointers to calculate the square footage of the walls area.

Remember, the addition of paint color will require a little more paint. However, any purchase will include a slight margin. For the example, if you estimate the wall has a total of 400 square feet of wall space and you want to apply 2 coats of paint, you should buy 2 gallons of paint. It is better to have extra paint than to run out of paint and have to stop in the middle, and the extra costs for this, so check out.

- Remember to check the paint calculation for interior versus exterior. Interior paint is not suitable for exterior use and vice versa.
- Select your color and sheen and quantity with the retailer. Call the retailer for more information. Call the retailer for more information. Call the retailer for more information.

What NOT to Do with Leftover Latex Paint

Do not pour paint down the drain, into the soil, or into the ground. Do not mix paint with other materials. Do not mix paint with other materials. Do not mix paint with other materials.

- Do not mix paint with other materials.
- Do not mix paint with other materials.

Other Tips for Paint Purchasing

If you are using a new color, it is best to buy a little extra paint to ensure a complete job. If you are using a color that is already in your home, you can buy a little extra paint to ensure a complete job. If you are using a color that is already in your home, you can buy a little extra paint to ensure a complete job.

When you paint, color using standard formulas, and it is best to buy extra in a half day if necessary. Professional painters recommend buying 1/2 gallon of paint for every 100 sq ft.

Look for recycled content paint, which is green significantly lower than virgin paint. For the same quality, the more recycled content, the better. The more recycled content, the better. The more recycled content, the better.

Storing Leftover Paint So It Can Be Reused

To make leftover paint to be possible to reuse later, it needs to be stored in a clean, dry container with the lid on. It should be stored in a clean, dry container with the lid on. It should be stored in a clean, dry container with the lid on.

- Do not store in unsealed jugs, unless you transfer to a sealed jug.
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Companion fact sheet targeted to consumers, painting contractors, & users of paint.

Consumer Fact Sheet

Customize with Local Information

- Donation options
 - Local charities, religious organizations, community theatre groups, schools, government offices, others
- Paint exchange programs
 - Community “drop & swaps”
 - Online materials exchange programs
- Disposal options - SW & HHW
 - Municipal and/or private disposal companies



Consumer Outreach Methods

- Distribute through:
 - paint retail locations
 - HHW events
 - other local events
- Insert in regular town mailings:
 - tax bills
 - utility bills
 - communications on solid waste or HHW management
- Announcements in local newspaper
- Posters on community bulletin boards
- Information on town's website



Feedback

- Are there local places to donate used paint?
 - Is someone willing to do a bit of research?
 - Or provide NEWMOA with some suggestions to contact?
- Should we include Drop & Swap?
 - Is anyone interested in pursuing this option for their town?
- Should we include HHW information for oil-based?
- Anything else that should be included or reworded?

Next Steps

- Finalize consumer handout for ERCSWMA
- Create an online template to keep up-to-date (and modify for other locations)
- Conduct needs assessment & develop next steps

