

NOT SURE WHAT TO DO WITH STUFF?



GET CONNECTED TO FIND OUT!

VISIT



SEARCH



E-NEWS



CALL



recyclesmart.info (231) 941-5555



RecycleSmart | GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)

How to identify and properly dispose of HHW

Many products used to paint, clean, and maintain our homes, gardens and yards, contain chemicals that may be toxic to human health and the environment when disposed of improperly.



RecycleSmart

What is Household Hazardous Waste?

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) is products used in and around your home that have one or more of the following characteristics: **Corrosivity; Toxicity; Flammability; Reactivity.** Read the label to determine which products require special handling. Warnings such as "poisonous or toxic", "flammable or ignitable", or "corrosive" are indicators that the items should be disposed of as HHW. Cleaners that contain strong acids, bleach or ammonia are also hazardous.

Paint and paint products that are oil-based and require the use of paint thinner or mineral spirits are considered hazardous and should be disposed through the RecycleSmart Household Hazardous Waste program. Water-based paints are not considered hazardous and can be prepared for safe disposal with household trash. To prepare latex paint for disposal with household garbage, mix paint with an absorbent such as cat litter, sawdust or a commercial paint hardener. Once the paint is solidified, place it in a trash bag and dispose with your household garbage. Water-based paint, in liquid form, is accepted at the RecycleSmart Household Hazardous Waste events. Usable liquid water-based paint will get recycled through the hazardous waste vendor. **Please dispose of empty paint cans with your regular household garbage.**

What to Do With Unwanted HHW

HHW requires special handling and disposal through licensed hazardous waste companies. Residents are encouraged to bring HHW to a special drop-off event, sponsored by Grand Traverse County RecycleSmart. The reverse side of this flyer lists the dates of HHW collection events.

What Happens to HHW?

What happens to the hazardous waste after items are dropped off at a collection event depends on the type of material. Items such as fluorescent bulbs, batteries, oil, antifreeze and latex paint are recycled. Flammable liquids and oil based paints are used for energy recovery. While some other items are stabilized (acids, bases, caustic products) or destructively incinerated, few items are disposed in hazardous waste landfills.

Benefits of Proper HHW Management

Disposing of your HHW at special collection events or HHW facility benefits you, the community and the environment by:

- Keeping toxic chemicals out of landfills
- Reducing the potential for groundwater contamination
- Preventing pollution on our streets from garbage trucks
- Eliminating exposure to toxics for sanitation workers
- Protecting local bodies of water from contamination
- Reducing the incidence of household chemical poisoning of children and pets



Grand Traverse County RecycleSmart

www.recyclesmart.info | Hotline: 231-941-5555

RecycleSmart

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)



Transporting Household Hazardous Waste

- Keep items in their original and labeled containers.
- Do not mix the contents of unknown or unlabeled containers.
- Make sure that the containers are not leaking prior to bringing them to a collection event.
- Do not transport containers with open lids.
- Place chemicals away from passengers.
- Secure all containers so they cannot slide, tip or spill contents.

Listed below are examples of accepted HHW

Kitchen/Bathroom

- Expired or unused medicines
- Drain cleaners
- Mercury thermometers
- Aerosol cans
- Bleach, ammonia
- Nail polish
- Metal polish with solvent

Miscellaneous

- Batteries (all types)
- Mercury
- Moth balls
- All propane tanks
- Acids
- Pool chemicals
- Fiberglass epoxy
- Lighter fluid
- Photo chemicals

Garden

- Pesticides, herbicides
- Fungicides, insecticides
- Weed and feed
- Deck wash and stains

Garage

- Used oil, anti-freeze
- Brake, transmission fluids
- Gasoline, kerosene, diesel fuel, fuel oil
- Car batteries, battery acid

Workshop

- Fluorescent and CFL bulbs
- Glue-solvent based
- Oil-based paint and primer
- Solvents, paint thinner
- Turpentine
- Varnish and wood stain
- Wood preservatives

NOT ACCEPTED at HHW Events:

x Tires x Electronics x Ammunition x Empty Cans

Not sure what to do with stuff?

Learn where and how to reuse, recycle, compost or properly dispose of just about anything with the **RecycleSmart Take It Back Recycling Directory** at recyclesmart.info

RecycleSmart

**For Health's Sake:
Dispose of HHW at a RecycleSmart
Special Collection Event**

2017 Events

Thursday, March 23 1 pm - 7 pm Thursday, May 11 1 pm - 7 pm

Thursday, June 22 1 pm - 7 pm Thursday, August 10 1 pm - 7 pm

Saturday, October 14
9 am - 2 pm

Appointments are REQUIRED!

Make appointments online at
recyclesmart.info
or by calling the RecycleSmart
Hotline **231-941-5555**.

A \$1.30/pound fee will be charged for
quantities greater than 150 pounds.

Tip: a full gallon can of paint/HHW weighs
approximately 8 pounds.

Business/Organization Hazardous Waste (Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators)

Visit recyclesmart.info or call **231-941-5555**
to determine if you are CESQG.

- Pre-registration is **REQUIRED**

- A \$1.30/pound fee will be charged for
quantities greater than 150 pounds.

Open to residents of Grand Traverse County

Pesticides only are accepted from out-of-county
residents, agri-businesses, and farms without fee
through the Michigan Department of Agriculture
Clean Sweep program.

Questions? Call RecycleSmart 231-941-5555

Sign Up for Event Notification & News at
www.recyclesmart.info
go to newsletter page

Grand Traverse County RecycleSmart

www.recyclesmart.info | Hotline: 231-941-5555

RecycleSmart

Household Paint Disposal Guide

Tips for Handling Unwanted Paint

Paint and related products such as paint thinners and solvents have different disposal methods based on the chemical formula of the product. Proper handling and disposal protects human health and the environment.



Why Does Proper Disposal of Paint Matter?

Disposing of unwanted paints, solvents and thinners down sinks and drains, onto the ground or into the trash, can overwhelm and damage sewage systems, destroy septic tanks and damage the protective liners of landfills. These items can also contaminate surface and groundwater, which we depend on for drinking water and enjoy for recreation. Follow the paint disposal tips and guidelines described in this leaflet to ease threats to human health and the environment.

3R's of Paint - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

REDUCE

Reduce the amount of leftover paint from your project.

- Measure the space and ask your paint dealer, or use an online paint calculator, to help you determine the correct amount of paint for the project.
- If some paint remains, apply additional coats to use it completely.
- Not sure if you'll like a color? Use paint swatches first or purchase a sample size.

REUSE

Leftover paint has a shelf life of 10-15 years when stored properly.

- To keep paint from drying up, seal the paint can properly. Remove any paint from the grooves of the paint can and wipe it clean with a rag. Use a rubber mallet to tap the lid down securely. Don't have a mallet? Cover the can with a piece of wood and then hammer the lid closed.
- Store paint in a cool, dark location like a basement. Store cans on a shelf to keep the bottoms of the cans from rusting due to the moisture in the floor. No basement? A cabinet or closet in your house away from extreme hot or cold temperatures will keep your paint useable.

Use leftover paint for other projects or give it away.

- If you have useful quantities of leftover paint, ask friends, neighbors or relatives if they can use it.
- Community centers, animal shelters, housing authorities, places of worship, artists and theater groups may welcome a donation of useable paint. Useable paint has not gone through a freeze-thaw cycle and is free of particulates. Call ahead to make sure that your donation will be accepted.
- Be creative with paint left overs. Paint a birdhouse, a garage wall, or outdoor furniture.

RECYCLE

OIL BASED PAINTS

- Oil based paints are considered a household hazardous waste and should be disposed through household hazardous waste collection events. Check the recyclesmart.info website for event schedule or ask for the RecycleSmart Household Hazardous Waste flyer.
- Handle paints containing petroleum distillates with great care. They are ignitable and their fumes are potentially harmful. Always follow label directions.
- You can solidify oil-based paints by allowing their volatile contents to evaporate in a well-ventilated area. Then, mix remaining liquids with absorbents and allow it to harden.
- Alternatively, apply leftover paint to scrap lumber or cardboard. Keep children and pets away while these paints are drying. Then place these scraps with your regular trash.

SOLVENTS

- You can "recycle" used solvents by allowing paint pigments to settle to the bottom, and later pouring the clarified liquid into a new or recycled (and accurately labeled) container. Mix the remaining solvent/paint sludge with an absorbent and dispose with normal trash.

Paints containing lead, cadmium or mercury are highly toxic and must be taken to a household hazardous-waste collection.



LATEX PAINT DISPOSAL

**DRY IT UP
THROW IT OUT**

Water-base paint is not hazardous and should be disposed of in the trash.

DETAILS ON REVERSE ►

Grand Traverse County RecycleSmart

www.recyclesmart.info | Hotline: 231-941-5555

RecycleSmart

Household Paint Disposal Guide

Tips for Handling Unwanted Paint

Paint and related products such as paint thinners and solvents have different disposal methods based on the chemical formula of the product. Proper handling and disposal protects human health and the environment.



RecycleSmart

LATEX PAINT

- Latex paint is also referred to as water-based, acrylic, or emulsion paint. It is comprised mostly of water and is **not** considered a hazardous waste. It can be safely disposed of in your household trash as long as it is **solidified first**.
- To determine if your paint is latex, look at the label and find the 'Cleanup Instructions'. For latex paint, you will be instructed to clean your brushes with 'detergent and water' or 'soap and water'. If you are instructed to use a solvent, like mineral spirits, to clean your brushes or if the words 'alkyd' or 'combustible' are on the label, the paint is not latex based and should be disposed through Grand Traverse County's household hazardous waste collection events. Check the RecycleSmart.info website for event schedule or ask for the RecycleSmart Household Hazardous Waste flyer.
- Latex paint is accepted at any of the Grand Traverse County household hazardous waste events however handling latex paint at home will keep program costs within budget.

HOW TO SOLIDIFY LATEX (WATER-BASED) PAINT

- **Air dry.** Remove the lid and allow the liquid to evaporate. This works well for small quantities of paint (an inch or two in the bottom of the can), and can take several days.
- **Use a drying agent.** Mix an equal amount of an absorbent material into the can and allow the paint to dry. Use cat litter, sawdust, plaster of Paris, Oil-dri, or "waste paint hardeners" found at home improvement centers as absorbent material. The paint could dry quickly, depending on how much drying agent you include in the can.
- **Pour thin layers** (about 1" of paint) into a cardboard box lined with plastic. Allow the paint to dry one layer at a time until all paint has hardened. Once the paint is thoroughly dry, place it in a regular trash bag and put it out for trash collection.

Once the paint is thoroughly dry, place it in a regular trash bag and put it out for trash collection.

LATEX PAINT DISPOSAL

DRY IT UP
THROW IT OUT

Water-base paint is not hazardous and should be disposed of in the trash.



Grand Traverse County RecycleSmart

www.recycleSMART.info | Hotline: 231-941-5555

PROTECT OUR COMMUNITY

DO NOT

dump the paint on the ground or down storm drains where it will travel directly to surface and/or ground water.

DO NOT

pour paint down the drain. Keep brush and paint tool washing to a minimum by wiping off excess paint with a disposal rag before clean up.

DO NOT

throw liquid paint in the regular trash. It is illegal and leaking paint spills out of waste collection vehicles onto city streets making an unsightly mess that is very difficult to clean up.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit RecycleSmart.info

Sign up for our monthly electronic newsletter at RecycleSmart.info

Call Grand Traverse County RecycleSmart at 231-941-5555

RecycleSmart