

What to do with paint?



1. When purchasing paint, buy only what you need. Quarts are more expensive than gallons. However, if you only need a quart, don't buy a gallon that you will probably never use and need to dispose of down the road.
2. Use paint hardeners. This product comes in a small packet that when mixed with waste paint, solidifies the paint in about 20 minutes. Paint hardeners are available through many hardware and paint stores. Once the paint is solidified, you can toss it into the trash. Just make sure the lid is kept off of the can so that your trash hauler can see no liquid is present.
3. Pour your old paint onto kitty litter or another absorbent material. Once dry, the paint can be placed in your trash and you can recycle the can.
4. Use one of the ECS&R (Environmental Coordination Services & Recycling) drop-off sites in Crawford or Butler County. Contact them at 1-866-815-0016. The Crawford County site is open from 9 AM – 4 PM Monday through Friday. The Butler County site is by appointment only (www.recyclebutler.us). Both of these sites also accept electronics and other hazardous materials. Fees apply.
5. Take it to a Southwestern PA Household Hazardous Waste Task Force collection event. These are scheduled periodically throughout the spring and fall seasons, at various locations. More information can be found at www.zerowastepgh.org.
6. Quantities of good usable paint may be of interest to organizations (such as play houses or Habitat for Humanity) and schools for theatrical productions and other activities.

For questions or more information, contact the Lawrence-Mercer Recycling Solid Waste Department at 724-658-6925.

