What do I do with leftover paint?

PREVENTION

Preventing waste in the first place is the best, least expensive method of disposal. For all waste items, we recommend you follow disposal options in this order:

REDUCE

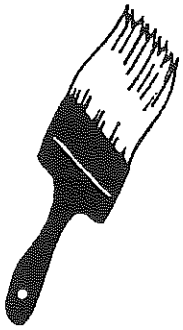
Buy only what you need and return unopened cans. If you are the end of a job and realize you need only a small amount to finish, exchange the unopened can for a quart.

RE-USE

Use leftovers for second coats, touch-ups, painting fences, bird houses, basements, give to a friend, neighbor or small business owner, etc. OR - donate leftovers to community groups, school and local theater groups, recreation departments, sign painters, farmers for fences, etc.

RECYCLE

Old latex paints can be blended together to produce beige or gray. Oil-based paints may also be mixed together. DO NOT MIX OIL-BASED PAINT WITH LATEX PAINT. Mix different latex paints together, use for fences, basements, sheds, etc.



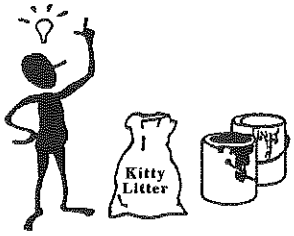
DISPOSE OF SAFELY

IF NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE EXISTS

What cannot be reused can be solidified and sent to the landfill* by following the instructions for latex paint and oil-based paint:

LATEX PAINT

Latex paint is not hazardous waste! Latex paints are water-based and are a safer substitute for oil-based paints. They may be solidified (allowed to harden), absorbed and then placed in the trash, Take the top off the paint can, place it outside, away from pets and children and allow it to harden. If the can is very full, absorb the material by mixing it with sawdust, clay-based kitty litter or rags. Stir with a stick until all the paint is absorbed. When the paint is solidified it may be placed in the trash. Containers with no liquid paint may be placed in the trash, Call **610-273-3771 ext. 228** for more explicit directions.



OIL-BASED PAINT

Save oil-based paint for a Household Hazardous Waste Collection day.

If none is scheduled you may mix with an absorbent like sawdust, clay-based kitty litter or rags. Small quantities may be mixed in the can; larger quantities can be mixed in a box lined with a plastic bag. Stir with a stick until all the paint is absorbed. Seal the solidified paint and can, absorbent stick, box, etc, in a plastic bag and dispose of with trash. NOTE: Mix outside, away from children and pets. Use gloves. Avoid if you have chronic respiratory problems.