

## What Every Painter Should Know

All painting jobs create wastes that can harm humans, waterways, fish and other wildlife if handled or disposed of improperly. Paints and paint waste can enter storm drains from runoff or improper disposal. Storm drains carry untreated pollutants directly into streams and rivers, harming aquatic plants, animals, fish and those who eat the fish.

Aside from causing environmental damage, improper disposal violates Oregon law. OAR 340-61-020, OAR 340-45-015 (1) (a) & (b), and ORS 459.205 (1) prohibit improper disposal of wastes and contamination of waters and provide for civil and criminal penalties for violators.

Most painters manage wastes responsibly, but sometimes disposal options can be confusing. The information provided in this article is designed to help you prevent, reduce, recycle or safely dispose of common painting wastes. The result will be happier customers who appreciate your concern for their property and a safer environment.

### **What is Paint Waste?**

- Solvents (water, mineral spirits, toluene)
- Oil-based paint
- Latex paint
- Rags
- Paint chips/dust
- Paint and solvent containers

### **What Can You Do With Usable Leftover Paint?**

Check into donating leftover paint to local theaters, schools, clubs, or churches.

Give small amounts of paint left over at the end of a job to the customer for touch up jobs later.

Combine light-colored leftover paints for use as primer on future jobs.

Recycle unwanted latex paint through Metro's latex paint recycling program for businesses.

Dispose of unwanted oil-based paint at a permitted hazardous waste management facility.

## Paint Clean-up Dos and Don'ts

### **Do**

Use the least toxic cleanup solvent available.

Allow paint solids in used solvents to settle so the clear portion can be poured off and reused.

Dispose of spent solvents at a permitted hazardous waste management facility.

After separating solids, pour latex clean up water down a sink drain that is connected to the public sanitary sewer system.

### **Don't**

Don't pour any paint or clean-up materials into storm drains, ditches, gutters, catch basins, dry wells, creeks or other surface water drainage.

Don't put LIQUID paint, solvent or clean-up waste in garbage cans or dumpsters.

### **More Information**

For more information about managing painting waste in the Portland metropolitan area, call DEQ at 229-5263.

For information about disposing of paint and other hazardous waste, call Metro Recycling Information at 234-3000.

**or Call Your Local Jurisdiction**

Oak Lodge Sanitary District  
503.653.1653