



# STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE: PAINT WASTE MANAGEMENT

Painting activities generate various types of waste, including excess paint, wash water, containers, rags, used paint thinner, and paint chips. Improper disposal can harm local water quality and wildlife.



## 01. Preparing to Paint



- Read disposal and cleanup instructions** on the label before starting.
- Cover storm drains or divert water** when washing to prevent runoff.
- Use a tarp** to collect sanding dust and paint chips during paint removal, as old paint may contain lead, which is toxic to waterways.



## 02. Cleanup Procedures:

### Paint Brushes and Equipment

- Brush out excess paint before washing.
- Latex paint: Rinse brushes and rollers in a sink.
- Oil-based paint: Clean brushes and rollers with paint thinner.

### Leftover Paint

- Drain excess paint back into the paint can.
- Oil-based paint: Recycle or dispose of as hazardous waste.
- Paint thinners: Dispose of as hazardous waste.
- Paint chips and sanding dust: Dispose of as trash if non-hazardous.

### Leftover Latex Paint

- Add kitty litter or sand to the can.
- Let it dry completely until solid.
- Dispose of the solidified paint in the trash.



## 03. Disposal Tips

### Homeowners:

Take unused paint, oil-based paints, paint thinners, and aerosol cans to Hazardous Waste Facility

### Professional Painters:

- Oil-based paints and aerosol cans are hazardous waste.
- Return equipment to your facility for proper disposal of wash water and hazardous materials.



## 04. Prohibited Disposals:

### Never dispose of paint or wash water into:

- |   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| -Sinks (unless rinsing latex paint tools to sanitary sewer) | -Pavement                  |
| -Grass  | -Storm drains              |
|   | -Streams, lakes, or rivers |

**Report illicit discharges to Durham County Stormwater at  
[stormwater@dconc.gov](mailto:stormwater@dconc.gov) or 919-560-7008**