PROP FACT Sheet

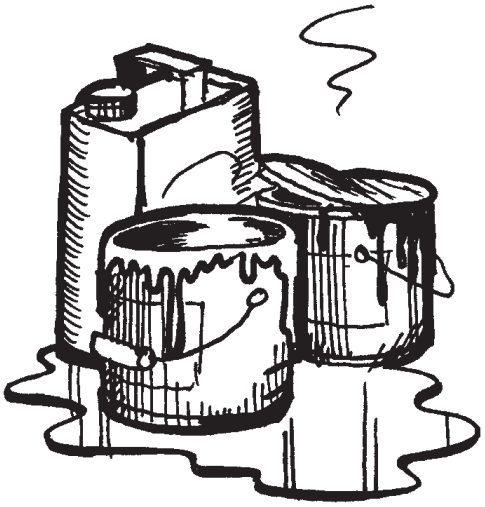
Reducing Household Hazardous Waste

A number of commonly used household products are actually very toxic and should be avoided. Residues from these wastes are among the most difficult problems associated with leaking landfills. (Even today's well-constructed and monitored sanitary landfills leak to some degree.) Additionally, many of these raise serious health concerns around the house. A National Cancer Institute study showed childhood leukemia was 6.5 times more likely to occur in households that use pesticides.

Product	Problems	Alternatives
Bug Killers	May cause long-term health problems with the nervous reproductive systems.	Biological controls Plant-derived insecticides Prevention
Weed Killers/ Lawn Chemicals	Many are proven or suspected carcinogens. Phenoxy/2, 4-D causes nervous and reproductive problems.	Hand pulling weeds Higher grass cutting Enjoy the color of dandelions in the spring.
Oil Paints, Paints, Varnishes & Nail Polishes	Most solvents in these products are central nervous system depressants.	Latex paints Solvent-free paints
Solvents/Thinners	Many of these can cause nervous system and liver damage.	Biodegradable solvents Water-based products
Treated Wood & Preservatives	Creosote & arsenic compounds are carcinogenic.	Rot-resistant woods Recycled "lumber"
Disinfectants, Mothballs & Furniture Polish	Benzene and ethylene glycol chemicals cause liver and kidney damage.	Borax & hot water Cedar chips Lemon juice & vegetable oil
Motor Oil	Pollutes surface & ground water. Contains benzene & heavy metals.	Recycle at service garage Take car to garage
Drain Openers	Causes severe skin burns & eye irritation	Baking soda & vinegar Plunger or snake device
Auto Batteries	Contains lead & sulfuric acid	Recycle with retailer
Antifreeze	Can cause severe nausea Harmful to pets if ingested	Take car to garage

How to Solidify Paint:

Follow directions carefully to avoid causing harm to human health or the environment. If you have a chronic respiratory problem, such as asthma, ask someone else to solidify the paint, as the fumes might trigger symptoms. Please note that these suggestions are only for household quantities of leftover paint. Read all directions before starting.



You will need nitrile gloves, an old bucket or sturdy cardboard box, a stick for stirring and absorbent materials, such as clay-based kitty litter. Please note is is important to avoid using a paper-based product for the absorbent, as spontaneous combustion may occur.

1. Select a location where there is plenty of fresh air and which is inaccessible to children and pets. Outside is the best choice. Make sure you are away from fire, pilot lights, flammable chemicals or other sources of sparks or flames.

2. Do not smoke, eat or drink (especially alcohol) while solidifying paint. Avoid inhaling fumes (if you can smell it, you are inhaling it) and wear nitrile gloves to avoid skin contact. Nitrile gloves are available in most hardware stores. If you wear contact lenses, remove them while solidifying paint.

3. For small quantities, such as one or two inches in the bottom of a can, simply remove the lid, add the absorbent, and stir until all liquid is absorbed or remove the lid until the paint has solidified. This could take several days or weeks, depending on the amount of paint in the can.

4. For larger quantities of paint, mix absorbent and paint in an old bucket or sturdy cardboard box and stir. It will be easier to mix if you pour some absorbent in the bottom of the bucket or box, and then add a little bit of paint at a time.

5. When paint is solidified, place the absorbent and boxes inside a garbage bag, seal tightly, and dispose of in the trash. Recycle the empty cans in your curbside or drop-off recycling bin.

This fact sheet was developed by the Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania, P.O. Box 25, Bellwood, PA 16617. For more information, visit our website, www.proprecycles.org, or contact us by email at prop@proprecycles.org. Portions of this fact sheet were adapted from Paint, a publication of the Household Hazardous Waste Project and Southwest Missouri State University and the Household Hazardous Waste Fact Sheet series published by the Penn State Cooperative Extension. Funding for this fact sheet was provided through a grant from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' Forest Lands Beautification. We do our part to close the recycling loop and print all our publications on recycled paper.