

PAINT SMART!

Summer time is often a popular time to begin indoor and outdoor home improvement projects, particularly large painting jobs. However, are you aware that paint products are often disposed of improperly? Improper disposal of paint can lead to the contamination of our stormwater and ultimately harms the water quality of our Three Rivers. The following are guidelines for the proper use and clean-up of paint, so that our waterways can stay clean.

What are the General Practices of Painting Smart?

- Keep all paint products and wastes away from the street, gutter and storm drains.
- Reuse paint thinner by setting used thinner aside in a closed, labeled jar to settle out paint particles, and then pouring off the clear liquid for future use.



- Wrap dried paint residue in newspapers and dispose of it in the trash.

- Rinse containers and use rinse water as product. Dispose of rinsed containers in the trash.

- Use kitty litter or other absorbent material to clean up spills from paved surfaces.

- Properly use and store all toxic products including cleaners, solvents and paints.
- Purchase water-based paints whenever possible. Look for products labeled "latex" or "clean up with water."

How to Remove Paint

- Sweep up dust and paint chips from sanding or stripping. Dispose of in the trash unless the activity involved marine paints or paints containing leads. These should be disposed of as hazardous waste.

- When high-pressure water stripping or cleaning building exteriors, block storm drains and divert the wastewater onto a designated dirt area.

How to Clean Up When Painting

- Avoid cleaning brushes and rinsing paint containers in a street, gutter or storm drain.
- For water based paints, "brush out" as much paint as possible and rinse in the sink.
- For oil based paints, "brush out" as much paint as possible, clean with thinner, and then filter and reuse thinner or solvent.

Lastly, How to Recycle or Reuse Paint

- Recycle or reuse leftover paint by using it for touch-ups.

- Paint can also be given to someone who can use it, such as a neighbor, theatre group, school, or other community or volunteer organization.

- To dispose of the paint as hazardous waste, participate in the next Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day, to be held Saturday, September 27, 2008 from 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. at the site of the former amphitheatre at Station Square in Allegheny County.

- Products that can be dropped off for disposal can include **cleaners, paints, stains, varnishes**, car batteries, motor oil, pesticides and other products containing hazardous components, for a fee of \$2 per gallon.

- For more information, please contact the Pennsylvania Resources Council at 412-488-7452 or visit the Southwestern Pennsylvania Household Hazardous Waste Task Force web-site at <http://www.swpahhw.org/home.html>.



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