

“What should I do with leftover paint?” The South Shore Recycling Cooperative (SSRC) advises residents to bring **oil based** (“alkyd”) paint and stain to one of our household hazardous waste (HHW) events, as their solvents are hazardous to health, safety and the environment.

As for **latex paint**, it is **messy**, but not hazardous. Until now, we have had to advise absorbing the liquid with cat litter to prevent it from dripping, and dispose of the open cans with household trash. Paint should **never be poured down indoor or outdoor drains**, unless you want an excuse to call your plumber.

This year, **usable latex paint** has a chance for a second “life”. Thanks to a grant from the Mass. Department of Environmental Protection, the SSRC is partnering with **The Paint Exchange LLC** of Scituate on a pilot paint recycling program.

Last spring we diverted 650 gallons of good paint from the incinerator at seven collections. This has saved our member towns thousands in disposal costs. We have scheduled another five collection events this fall at which **usable latex interior paint** will be collected for recycling.

### **What is considered “Usable” paint? :**

- Interior latex paint
- Original container and label
- 1 gallon size or greater (no quarts please)
- Limit of 15 gallons per household

Before bringing it in, dust off and pop the lid. “If you would use it, we can use it”. Check that the following have not occurred:

- Mold or mildew growth
- A foul odor (putrification)
- Solidification or skinning - if the paint is solid or overly thick it cannot be recycled
- Curdling (semi solid lumps of paint)

If any of these things have occurred, stir in some kitty litter, leave the lid off, put it in a bag and dispose with your trash.