

Clean Water

At A Glance

Paint

Painting

Painting creates waste that can be harmful to people, pets, fish and other wildlife. When paint or paint waste enters the stormwater system - street gutters, storm drains and open channels - it is carried untreated to our local streams and rivers. This is harmful to the environment and a violation of City Code 4.372.

WET
PAINT!

What is Paint Waste?

Paint waste includes solvents (water, mineral spirits, toluene), oil-based paints, latex paints and rinsewater, rags, paint chips/dust, and paint and solvent containers.

What Can You Do With Leftover Paint?

Give it to friends, donate it to schools or community groups, or recycle leftover paint. Find a paint drop site near you (check out paintcare.org) or call Lane County Waste Management at 541.682.4120 for paint disposal options.

Clean-Up Do's

- Pour latex "clean-up" water down an inside drain (toilets and sinks) that is connected to the wastewater collection system.
- Keep oil-based paints or solvents out of drains, both inside and outside your home or business. Dispose of these materials at a permitted hazardous waste management facility (Lane County Waste Management, 541.682.4120).
- Keep liquid paint, solvent, and clean-up materials out of the garbage or dumpster, and off the ground. Allow small amounts of latex paint to dry up in the can, then place in trash. You can use cat litter, shredded paper, sawdust, or commercial paint hardener to help the paint dry.
- Use the least toxic clean-up solvent available.

Additional Tips

- Purchase only the amount of paint needed for each job.
- Use latex paint whenever possible.
- Use tarps/drip pans to collect paint and solvent spills.
- Use high-efficiency spray guns to minimize overspray.
- Keep containers tightly sealed when not in use.
- Store leftover paint and solvents separately in original or clearly marked containers away from heat sources, pets, and kids.
- Always store paint chemicals under cover and away from rain.

Report Water Pollution

Help keep our local rivers healthy and report water pollution. Call the water pollution reporting hotline at 541.726.3694 or email dpw@springfield-or.gov

For more information on how to protect local rivers, go to springfieldstreams.org or email our team at WaterResources@springfield-or.gov

