

STORING LEFTOVER PAINTS

- Store leftovers in the **smallest container possible** to prevent paint from drying.
- **Label the container** with the brand, color, date, and the room/project it matches.
- **Store in a dry location** above freezing temperatures.

DISPOSING OF PAINT, STAIN & SOLVENTS

- **DRIED OUT PAINTS, STAINS, and PAINTING TOOLS** should go directly into your regular trash.
- **LATEX PAINT**
 - Open lid, stir in kitty litter, and set outside in a covered area until completely dry. Stir as needed.
 - Place can with **dry contents with the lid off** in your regular trash.
- **OIL-BASED PAINTS and STAINS**
 - Take to Orange County Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) site.
 - Transport labeled cans with secure lid in cardboard box lined with newspaper. Unlabeled materials will not be accepted.



ORANGE COUNTY HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (HHW) COLLECTION CENTER

1514 Eubanks Road, Chapel Hill

Sunday	1PM-6 PM
Monday	7AM-6PM
Tuesday	7AM-6PM
Wednesday	Closed
Thursday	7AM-6PM
Friday	7AM-6PM
Saturday	7AM-5PM

Please call or email to make an appointment for more than 10 cans, 10 items, or 10 gallons.

Questions about HHW may be directed to Orange County Solid Waste Management:

 orangecountync.gov/recycling
 recycling@orangecountync.gov
 919-968-2788

CONTACT CHAPEL HILL STORMWATER

 townofchapelhill.org/stormwater
 stormwater@townofchapelhill.org
 **Report pollution at**
919-969-RAIN (7246)

*This brochure is modified
from an article by Sheryl Ryan.*



HOW TO CLEAN UP PAINT & STAIN



Protect your home, health, and the environment.



Dispose of waste safely & properly. It is against federal, state, and local laws to contaminate soil and water.

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**Water quality
starts at home**

NEVER POUR OR RINSE PAINTS, STAINS, OR SOLVENTS ONTO THE GROUND OR INTO THE STORM DRAIN!

PROTECTING LOCAL WATER QUALITY

- The Illicit Discharge Ordinance helps the Town comply with the Federal Clean Water Act (Town of Chapel Hill Code of Ordinances Chapter 23, Article V).
- Latex (water-based) paints are safer for the environment than oil-based paints, but not as safe as natural paints. Treat low-VOC and zero-VOC latex paints as regular latex paint.
- **DO NOT EMPTY SOLVENTS IN A SINK OR ALLOW THEM TO ENTER SOIL OR WATER.**
- Chemicals and wash water can flow into waterways after a rain, harming plants, animals, and people by polluting local creeks and drinking water supplies.

CLEANING LATEX PAINT

- Brush or roll out as much as possible. Use gloved hands or a wire paint comb to squeeze excess latex paint from brush or roller. Squeeze again with paper towels or newsprint.
- If your home is connected to the **municipal sewer system**, you can wash latex paint brushes directly in the sink after removing the paint.
- For **septic tanks**, use a small bucket to wash. Rinse with a larger bucket. Let the paint drop to the bottom before pouring off the top, clear water. Let remaining water evaporate outdoors for several days until only dry paint is left.
- Discard **dried latex paint and cleanup materials** with regular household trash.

CLEANING OIL-BASED PAINT AND STAIN

- Ventilate the room to **avoid dangerous fumes**. Protect the floor with a drop cloth. Protect your hands with gloves.
- Using a wire paint comb, scrape as much paint as possible back into the paint can.
- Fill a glass or metal container with a couple of inches of solvent to soak the brushes. Swirl them around for five minutes, remove the brushes and **comb excess solvent back into the container**.
- Use a rag, paper towel, or newspaper to blot the solvent from brushes.
- Soak and blot 2-3 more times using a fresh container of solvent each time.
- Combine the used solvents in one well-labeled container for reuse or Household Hazardous Waste disposal.
- Hang brushes to dry. Solvent-laden rags or paper can burst into flames. **Immediately after use, lay rags or paper flat in a cool, well-aerated location to dry.** Keep them in single layers and away from combustible surfaces or materials. **When completely dry, place rags or paper in regular trash.**

STORM DRAINS LEAD DIRECTLY TO CREEKS:



If it's on the street, it's in the creek.