



COLUMBIA COUNTY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

**Columbia County Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program
Collects Latex Based Paint Starting Saturday, July 31st.**

Oregon is the first state in the nation to enact a law requiring paint manufacturers to safely manage leftover latex and oil-based paint from consumer and contractor painting jobs. This historic product stewardship legislation responds to the problem of managing leftover paint -- the largest component of local household hazardous waste collection programs.

An estimated 10 percent of the more than 750 million gallons of architectural paint sold each year in the United States is unused. This difficult-to-manage waste can be captured for reuse, recycling, energy recovery, or safe disposal, but doing so requires public awareness and a convenient and effective local infrastructure, currently beyond most local budgets and capacity.

The new paint stewardship law, signed July 23, 2009, is expected to result in the proper management of up to 800,000 gallons of leftover paint each year. Paint recycling will be more convenient throughout the state, particularly in areas where local governments do not offer paint recycling opportunities. Local government agencies that currently collect leftover paint will realize a direct financial savings. Communities that are currently under-served will see new services. Under the new law, the paint industry will set up a program to reduce paint waste, increase reuse and recycling and safely dispose of remaining unusable paint. Costs for safely managing leftover paint will be incorporated in the purchase price of new paint.

As of July 31, 2010, all unwanted house paint (in 5 gallon or smaller containers) can be brought to the Columbia County HHW Facility located at the Transfer Station in St. Helens. The Columbia County HHW Facility is only open the last Saturday of each month, from 8 AM to Noon.

For more information on the Paint Program and other drop off locations, go to the DEQ Website
<http://www.deq.state.or.us/lq/sw/prodstewardship/paint.htm>