

# Columbia County

## Department of Land Development Services

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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**Columbia County**

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**New Rules for Latex Paint Disposal: Important Notice and Instructions**

**Paint is pretty on a wall, not in groundwater. Keep it where it belongs.**

Countless gallons of leftover paint are thrown away every day. When improperly disposed of, paint can pollute surface and groundwater, threatening human health and wildlife.

Keep paint where it belongs. Use the first two Rs: Reduce and Reuse. Buy only what you need. One gallon of paint provides one coat for 300 sq. feet. Use leftover paint for an extra coat, touch-ups or a base coat on another project. If stored properly, paint lasts. To prevent paint from drying out, cover the opening with plastic wrap before replacing the lid securely. Keep from freezing. Give away your unused paint in good condition, labeled and in its original container. Neighbors, community organizations and schools may be happy to put it to use.

**DISPOSAL:**

**OIL-BASED PAINT:** Oil -based paints can be disposed of for free the last Saturday of every month at the Columbia County Transfer Stations' Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event.

## **LATEX PAINT:**

**Be sure it's latex paint or stain! Look on the label for the word "latex," or for directions to clean up or thin with water. If you don't see those clues, you likely have an oil-based paint. See above.**

**If you have less than an inch of leftover paint in a can, simply let it dry out in a safe place away from children and animals. Then put the can in the garbage with the lid off.**

**If you have more than an inch of leftover paint in a can, mix in an equal part cat litter or paint hardener. Let the mixture harden, then put the paint can in the garbage with the lid off.**

Columbia County's HHW services are maintained through transfer station collection fees.

Small businesses in Columbia County can get help with hazardous waste disposal too. If you own or work for a small business and would like more information, call 503.397.7213

Accepted HHW items include: oil based paints and stains, thinners and solvents, pool and spa chemicals, pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers and poisons, motor oil, antifreeze and other automotive fluids, household cleaners and disinfectants, batteries, art and hobby chemicals, aerosol spray products, propane tanks or bottles from barbecue grills, fluorescent lamps and ballasts, items containing mercury, medical sharps, and small arms ammunition. No containers larger than five gallons please.

Standard household garbage and latex paints are not accepted at HHW events. At this time, the Transfer Station does not accept radioactive material at HHW collection events or during regular operations.

Recycle. Electronic waste (i.e. television, monitors, cell phones, etc.), antifreeze, used motor oil and automotive batteries as well as glass, cardboard, plastics, and metals can be recycled at the transfer station anytime.