

# HINTS FOR HOMEOWNERS

## What To Do With Leftover Paint

(NAPSA)—The best way to give leftover paint headaches the brush-off is to measure the area to be painted before you start. Surprisingly, a consumer study showed that nearly half of all respondents reported they do not measure before purchasing paint.

Here's a Five-Point Program for leftover paint from the National Paint & Coatings Association that saves you money, keeps your home and garage from being cluttered and helps the environment by keeping usable paint out of the waste stream.

**1. Buy the Correct Amount of Paint for the Project**—By checking with your local paint dealer on how to determine the correct volume of paint required for your project, you can eliminate the need to store or dispose or recycle paint when the project is finished.

**2. Store Paint Properly to Keep it Fresh**—If your project is complete and you still have a fair amount of paint left over, cover the opening of the paint can with plastic wrap and securely seal the lid. When you are sure the lid is leakproof, turn the can upside down and store it in a place with a moderate room temperature to avoid freezing. Be sure to choose a safe location that is out of the reach of children and pets.

**3. Use Up Leftover Paint**—Now that you have safely stored your leftover paint, don't forget about it. Leftover paint can be used for touch-ups or smaller projects and lighter colors can be taken back to a paint retailer and be retinted for another paint project.

**4. Reuse or Recycle**—For a community association, theater company, church group or other



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local organizations that may be in need of good paint, check the "Earth 911" Paint Wise Web portal at [earth911.org/recycling/paint-recycling](http://earth911.org/recycling/paint-recycling) or call 1-800-CLEAN-UP to learn about paint reuse, recycling and HHW (Household Hazardous Waste) collection programs that are available in your community.

**5. Dispose of Paint Properly**—If there is not a leftover paint collection program available in your area, you may need to dispose of leftover latex paint yourself. Air-drying of liquid alkyd or oil-based paint is not considered safe. In regions that allow it, let your latex paint air-dry in a safe location away from children and pets.

According to the National Paint & Coatings Association's Five-Point Program for Leftover Paint, solvent-based paint should be managed only by a hazardous waste program.

For more tips on what to do with leftover paint, visit [http://www.paint.org/issues/post\\_consumer.cfm](http://www.paint.org/issues/post_consumer.cfm).