THE RIGHT WAY TO DISPOSE OF PAINT

DISPOSAL OF WATER-BASED PAINT

DRY THE PAINT THEN THROW IT IN THE BIN:
If you have to throw paint away, set the paint by placing it in a plastic container filled with kitty litter or paper scraps, let it dry and place it in the general waste bin. Paint can also be dried using cement but if the tin is more than 25% full, the top will go hard but the bottom will be soft, like custard. It is important for paint to be dry before it is placed in a bin.

A WASTE PAINT HARDENER MAY HELP:
If you need to get rid of a lot of water-based paint you may want to consider purchasing waste paint hardener. Mixed in with the paint the hardener will cause it to harden up within hours.

RECYCLE EMPTY PAINT CANS:
Let the empty paint cans dry completely, then recycle them in the scrap metal bin at the Riverview or Rosewood Recycling and Refuse Centres. If you have 25 mm or more of dried paint left in the bottom of the can, you’ll have to throw the whole can in the refuse bin.

• Water-based paint is not considered hazardous waste, so it doesn’t have to be taken to a hazardous waste disposal site.

• Liquid paint thrown in the general waste bin can make a terrible mess when the garbage truck compacts the cans and the paint is released. Paint can be sprayed out of the truck on to nearby cars or property. This is the main reason why paint should be dried out before disposal.

• Remember to leave the lid off paint cans before placing in the bin, so that the waste collection driver can see that the paint has hardened or the can is empty.

DISPOSAL OF SOLVENT-BASED PRODUCTS

SOLVENT-BASED PRODUCTS REQUIRE SPECIAL DISPOSAL PRACTICES:
Oil based paint, thinners, turpentine, mineral spirits and solvents are all considered hazardous waste. The Riverview Recycling & Refuse Centre provides a special drop off area for the disposal of small quantities of left-over paint from domestic sources.

Solvent-based products (with the exception of paint) and other chemicals are not accepted at this site on a daily basis. As an alternative, Council provides regular household hazardous waste drop off day for Ipswich residents. Further information on these drop-off days can be found online or by phoning Council.
OTHER DISPOSAL OPTIONS FOR WASTE PAINT:
The following companies provide drop-off and collection services for the disposal of paint and other chemicals from both domestic and commercial sources. Charges apply for these services. Please note there may be other licenced companies that can be found online or in references such as the Yellow Pages.

**Nationwide Oil**  
26-32 Potassium Street, Narangba  
(07) 3293 5555  
Can take: Waste oil, batteries, paint, chemicals, rags and empty drums.

**Tox Free**  
160 Musgrave Road, Coopers Plains  
(07) 3277 2474  
Can take: Paint, chemicals, batteries, rags, waste oil, empty drums and fluorescent lamp recycling

**Transpacific Technical Services Crestmead**  
Magnesium Street, Crestmead  
(07) 3489 4600  
Can take: Waste oil, batteries, paint, chemicals, rags and empty drums

TIPS FOR REDUCING PAINT WASTE

**BUY ONLY WHAT YOU NEED:** Remember to estimate the exact amount required for the job when purchasing paint. Always be sure to read the label, which contains important information regarding the product. Ask your retailer for assistance.

**USE IT ALL UP:** Apply a second coat or touch up, as needed.

**CONSIDER SAVING IT FOR A LATER PROJECT:** Water-based paint can be stored, mixed and reused for a later project. It may not be the exact color you need, but it’s useful to use as a base paint or to paint interior surfaces that won’t be seen. This way, you can use up all the paint without needing to throw it away.

**STORE IT SO IT LASTS FOR YEARS:** Tightly seal the used paint can and store it upside-down in a cool, dry storage area. Make sure the stored paint is out of reach of children and pets.

**LOOK INTO COMMUNITY PAINT RECYCLING PROGRAMS:** If you don’t have use for your leftover paint, someone else might. Look up community paint recycling programs in your area. Make sure that any product you “donate” is in its original container and has its label intact.