

# Fact Sheet 1

## PAINT



A program of Des Moines County Regional Solid Waste Commission and Great River Regional Waste Authority.

HOUSEHOLD PAINT MAY BE EITHER OIL-BASED OR LATEX. OIL-BASED PAINT IS CONSIDERED A HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE AND MUST NOT BE DISPOSED OF IN THE TRASH. UNUSABLE LATEX PAINT SHOULD BE DRIED OUT AND PLACED IN THE TRASH (SEE INSTRUCTIONS BELOW).

### Managing Paint

- Choose latex (water-based) paints whenever possible.
- Buy only the amount of paint you need for a given project.
- If you can't use leftover paint yourself:
  - try to find a friend or neighbor who can use it;
  - check with your local battered women's shelter, community theater, community organization to see if they can use it; or
  - If you have at least 3/4 gallon, bring it to the swap shop at the HazChem Center.



### Disposal of Oil-based or Lead Paint

- Unused oil-based paint or paint containing lead should be brought to the HazChem Center.

### Disposal of Unusable Latex Paint

- For small quantities, take off the lid and let the paint dry out, then put it out with your trash (leave the lid off so sanitation workers can see that the paint is dry).
- For larger quantities, use one of the following methods:
- Pour kitty litter, sand or sawdust into the can to absorb the paint and allow it to solidify. Paint disposal kits are available at the HazChem Center; OR
- Pour thin layers of paint onto newspaper spread in the bottom of a cardboard box, allowing each layer to dry before adding more paint. Place in the trash when dry.



### Disposal of Spray Paint

- For unusable paint or small quantities, spray the paint out onto a piece of cardboard and throw the container and the cardboard into the trash.