



Tips for Safe, Responsible Clean-Up

- Regarding cleanup:
 - As soon as you're done painting, remove the excess paint from brushes and rollers by simply painting a piece of cardboard or paper. Or, take a piece of newspaper, wrap it around the brush, and squeeze the paint out.
 - Then, wash the brushes out with warm water and dish soap. Rinse the brush thoroughly so that it looks like new.
 - Hang up the brushes to dry and later smooth out the bristles on the brushes so they retain their chiseled shape. Store the brushes in their original wrapper or a piece of newspaper and a rubber band to help keep the shape in storage.
 - If you plan on continuing your painting job the next day, place the brushes and rollers in zip lock bags or cover them completely with aluminum foil.
 - When stored properly, an unopened can of latex or oil-based paint should have a shelf life of 2 years. The best storage for paint is in a cool, dry area, away from extreme hot and cold temperatures. Paint should never be allowed to freeze and should be stored away from furnaces and other heat-generating appliances.

- Safe and responsible disposal:
 - If you have any leftover paint, thinner or other chemicals, they should never be poured down the drain or otherwise disposed of carelessly. Leftover paint in usable condition can be donated to churches, schools or other organizations.
 - To determine if old paint is still usable, stir with a paint stick. If the paint is smooth, it is still good to use. Empty cans or those with a small amount of water-based paint in them should be left open and allowed to dry in a ventilated area, out of the reach of children and pets. In most states, cans with dried latex paint may be discarded with household trash. Oil-based or alkyd paints should be allowed to dry by adding absorbent material such as kitty litter. Leftover paint can become dangerous if not disposed of correctly.
 - Become familiar with the disposal procedures recommended in your municipality. Some make regular, scheduled pickups of household hazardous waste and some have recycling programs.