



Latex paint and batteries

Reuse and recycling opportunities in Thurston County



What should I do with latex paint? Dry it up, use it up, or pass it on!

Dry it up!

Latex paint (also known as acrylic paint) can go in the trash, but you must dry it up first. Thurston County's HazoHouse and WasteMobile do not accept latex paint because it is no longer considered hazardous.

You must fully dry or solidify the entire contents of the can before putting it in the trash. Liquid latex paints can spill before and during the collection process, causing tremendous cleanup challenges.

- To help dry up your paint, add sawdust, shredded paper, grass clippings, or clay-based kitty litter. Most hardware and paint stores carry packets of paint solidifier that cost just a few dollars.



Shredded paper, mulch, or kitty litter will help solidify latex paint.



- Once paint is a tacky, oatmeal-like consistency and will not spill, put it in the trash.
- Remove lids from cans so your hauler can see that the cans are empty or contents are solidified. Your trash collector will not empty trash cans that contain unsolidified paint.

Buy smart!

Avoid creating waste in the first place; buy only what you need. One gallon of paint will cover between 250 and 350 square feet, depending on the porosity of the surface you are covering. Staff at the paint store can help you figure out how much paint you will need for your job.

Pass it on!

Donate extra cans of paint. Many schools, faith groups, community groups, and theater groups will accept cans of paint, especially white paint. Even a friend or neighbor may need some extra paint. Check your paint store's policy on returning unopened cans of paint.

Not so fast!

Take all unwanted **oil-based** paint (also known as alkyd paint) to HazoHouse. Oil-based paint, stains, varnish, and thinners are toxic and flammable and should not be dumped or disposed of as trash.

When transporting items to HazoHouse:

- Keep items in their original containers.
- Make sure lids are tight and containers are not leaking.
- Place items in a leakproof tub packed with newspaper or other absorbent materials.
- Keep products in your trunk or truck bed and secure them to prevent shifting.



Bring all oil-based paint to HazoHouse.

Recycling batteries

Batteries are essential to our everyday lives, especially with advances in portable technologies like cell phones, iPods, digital cameras and PDAs. As the sale of battery-operated devices has increased, so too has the challenge of disposing of batteries safely. Fortunately, many locations in Thurston County accept batteries for recycling.

Thurston County HazoHouse

Accepts all batteries except alkaline

Thurston County HazoHouse accepts all types of batteries except standard alkaline batteries. For other locations that accept batteries (including alkaline batteries), click the "Batteries" link of www.WhereDoITakeMy.org.



HazoHouse does not take alkaline batteries.

Types of batteries accepted at HazoHouse

Lithium metal batteries: Lithium metal batteries are long-lasting batteries that are becoming more popular to use in electronic devices, but they are NOT rechargeable. (Lithium metal batteries are not the same as the rechargeable Li-ion batteries described below.)

Many lithium metal batteries may look similar to alkaline batteries or rechargeable dry cell batteries. Look carefully at your battery's label before recycling.



Rechargeable dry-cell batteries: Rechargeable dry-cell batteries are commonly found in power tools, toothbrushes, cell phones, and some laptops.

Rechargeable batteries include:

- Ni-Cd
- Ni-Mh
- Li-ion
- Small sealed Pb (lead).



Lead-acid: Lead-acid batteries are found in motor vehicles, boats, off-road vehicles, and small equipment.



Uncommon batteries: HazoHouse also accepts uncommon or unique batteries that don't fit in one of the prior categories. Examples include silver oxide "button batteries" and hearing aid batteries.



Batteries must now be taped

The U.S. Department of Transportation announced new regulations in April 2009 for handling, shipping and transporting batteries. As a result, Thurston County must ask residents to tape both contact points (terminals) of their batteries, or place each battery in an individual plastic baggie before delivering the batteries to HazoHouse.

Any type of tape will work, but clear tape is better because it allows the batteries to be identified easily.

So how do you know where to put the tape? Identify the energy-points of the battery. In the case of A, AA, AAA, C, and D batteries, the tape should go on both ends of the battery.



This is also true for button cell batteries. In the case of 9-volt batteries and other batteries that have two terminals side-by-side, you may place one piece of tape



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