



4 Tips for Buying, Storing and Recycling Paint

A fresh coat of paint can make a huge difference in your home aesthetics, but what should you do with the leftovers? As paint users, it is important to know how to properly purchase, store and dispose of our paint, to limit paint waste and protect our home and the environment. Below are some tips to refer to during all stages of your paint product's life cycle.

1. Buy only the paint you need

In order to minimize waste and help save you money, make sure to buy the correct amount of paint needed for your project. Estimate the area you will be painting and the gallons of paint needed for the area measured. Check out [this article](#) for how to calculate this amount, or ask your paint retailer to help you estimate how much paint your project will require.

2. Store your paint properly

To properly store paint:

- Clean the rim of the can to ensure a proper seal.
- Pour 1/8" (3mm) of solvent on top of oil-based paint, or 1/8" (3mm) of water on top of latex paint to seal the surface then secure the lid.
- Alternatively, stretch plastic wrap over the can opening, replace the lid securely, and store paint upside down. This will create an airtight seal to keep the paint fresh until you're ready to use it again.
- Paint should always be stored away from heat sources, at temperatures between 3 degrees and 35 degrees Celsius, and out of the reach of children.

3. Reuse paint for future projects or share it with others

Reusing your leftover paint is the most cost-effective and energy efficient option. A few possibilities for reuse include: 1) applying another coat to an area that needs extra protection, 2) mixing smaller quantities of leftover latex paint together for use as a primer coat on a larger project, or 3) keeping a small amount of paint for touch-ups later.

If you have no other uses for your leftover paint, share it with someone who would be able to use it like a friend or a neighbour. You can also drop off your leftovers at one of Product Care Recycling's [PaintShare locations near you](#), where anyone in the community can pick up leftover paint for free.

4. Recycle the leftovers

Product Care Recycling is dedicated to responsibly managing end-of-life products, and diverting them from North America's landfills and waterways to protect the environment. As a federally incorporated, not-for-profit organization, Product Care provides paint recycling collection networks in [British Columbia](#), [Saskatchewan](#), [Manitoba](#), [Ontario](#), [New Brunswick](#), [Nova Scotia](#), [Prince Edward Island](#), and [Newfoundland and Labrador](#).

Please visit [Alberta's paint recycling website](#) or [Quebec's paint recycling website](#) if you reside in these provinces. Remember: do not ever pour paint down the drain or storm sewer, as this is detrimental to human health and the environment. Contact your local municipality for further details on how to properly dispose of your paint products.