

4 TIPS FOR BUYING, STORING, AND RECYCLING PAINT

A fresh coat of paint can completely change the feel of your home, but the real work starts when the project is over. Knowing how to buy, store, and dispose of your leftovers properly helps you save money and keeps our environment healthy.

1. BUY ONLY WHAT YOU NEED

The best way to reduce waste is to avoid having too much leftover in the first place.

- **Measure first:** Calculate the square footage of your space before heading to the store.
- **Ask a pro:** If you aren't sure how many gallons you need, your paint retailer can help you estimate based on your project size.

2. LOCK IN THE FRESHNESS

If you store your paint correctly, it'll be ready for your next project instead of drying out.

- Wipe any excess paint from the rim of the can to make sure the lid fits tightly.
- Pour about 3 mm (1/8") of water over latex paint, or 3 mm (1/8") of solvent over oil-based paint, before closing the lid to create a protective seal.
- Alternatively, stretch plastic wrap over the opening, replace the lid securely, and store the can upside down to create an airtight seal.
- Always store cans away from heat and in a spot that stays between 3°C and 35°C. Keep them high up and out of reach of kids and pets.





3. GIVE IT A SECOND LIFE

Reusing paint is the most eco-friendly and budget-friendly way to handle leftovers. You should keep a small jar of your wall colour for fixing scuffs later on, or you can mix small amounts of leftover latex paint together to use as a base coat for a new project. If you can't find a use for it yourself, a neighbour or friend might be able to use it for their own project. You can also drop it off at a [PaintShare](#) location where community members can pick up leftover paint for free.

4. RECYCLE WHAT'S LEFT

When the paint is no longer usable, recycling it is the only way to responsibly manage the product and keep it out of landfills. You should never pour paint down the sink or a storm sewer because it is harmful to our water and human health.

Product Care Recycling provides collection networks in British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Alberta. Visit productcare.org to find a recycling location near you..

For more details on how to properly dispose of your paint products in your specific area, you can contact your local municipality.



For over 30 years, Product Care Recycling has been managing the end-of-life of household products that are found in homes across Canada. A federally registered not-for-profit, we work with over 2,600 collection sites to ensure paint, household hazardous materials, lights, and alarms are responsibly recycled. To learn more about our programs or to find a recycling location near you, visit productcare.org.