

How to dispose of leftover paint without polluting the environment



Store out of reach of children

Got leftover paint? Get with the Resene PaintWise programme!

More than six litres of household paint is sold for each and every person living here every year. That's a lot of paint particularly as much of it is left sitting in paint containers and ends up in landfills. Disposing of paint correctly is important otherwise harmful components may be discharged into groundwater or streams affecting other living animals, fish or plants. There are lots of ways you can reduce this burden on the environment... here's some ideas to get you started:

Reduce: Buy only the paint you need

The best way to save waste is to avoid buying too much. Carefully measure up the area you plan to paint and use the coverage recommendations on the side of paint containers to check how much you need or ask Resene ColorShop staff for assistance. If you buy what you need and find you have paint left at the end of the job, you have probably applied it too thinly - in which case the best idea is to paint an extra coat to give the surface full protection as a thin coat means that the paint finish will not wear as well. Don't be tempted to buy an unnecessarily large pack size just because it is on special - remember the best deal is the one that gives you just the paint you need.

Use: Use up all your paint

If you have leftover paint, use it for touch-up jobs and smaller projects or add another coat to your paint finish for extra protection. Waterborne paints are also ideal for creating signs and banners and can be a much cheaper and more durable option than expensive felt pens - this can be a great way to use up any extra paint you may have.

Store: Store paint so it lasts for years

Brushes or rollers can transfer contamination from the surface you are painting back into the paint. The best way to work with paint is to tip out a small volume into a separate paint pot and use this for painting. Pour out only what you need for the job. This will leave the paint in the main paint container fresh and untouched by your brush or roller. Properly stored paint container last for years. Cover the top of the paint container with plastic wrap, place the lid on securely and store upside down. The paint will create a tight seal around the lid and will remain fresher for when you next wish to use it. Store away from extreme heat or cold. Keep out of reach of children.



Allow solids from turps to settle then re-use

Recycle: Recycle the empty paint container

Once you've used up your paint, recycle the empty paint container -simply allow the contents to dry out, then bring to a Resene PaintWise collection centre with the lid off the container so staff can see it is dry and empty. Each paint container you recycle is one less container that ends up in a landfill. If there are no Resene PaintWise collection centres in your area, contact your local council for recycling options.

Reuse: Reuse packaging materials

Clean out paint containers and pails and reuse them as paint pots or buckets. Use inside drains (not the stormwater drains) or wash onto your lawn.

If you just can't use your leftover paint, donate it to local community groups, schools, art groups and so on. You'll save them money and get the best use out of your paint leftovers at the same time.

Don't mix waterborne and solventborne paints. If mixed, paint cannot be re-blended or reused.

Make sure you donate the paint in its original container with the contents clearly marked so the recipient knows what they are receiving and how to handle it. Always check paint before you donate it to ensure it is still in good condition. It's best to donate paint as soon as you discover you don't need it, such as when you change your colour scheme, rather than holding onto it just in case.

Remember: left-over paint

- Use it.
- Donate it.
- Save it for touch-up later or use as a basecoat for another job.

Don't mix waterborne and solventborne paints. If mixed, paint cannot be re-blended or re-used.

Handle with care

Properly sealed solvents and thinners have an almost unlimited shelf life. Keep and use.

Solventborne paints require special disposal practices. They are also ignitable and present other hazards. These products must never be poured down storm drains, the household sink (especially if you have a septic tank) or on the ground. Solventborne paint should be disposed of as a household hazardous waste. Return to the Resene PaintWise service or hold for a 'Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day'. If your local community does not undertake such programmes, contact your local Council for disposal guidance.

Paint thinners, turpentine, mineral spirits and solvents should never be poured down a drain or the storm sewer. With the following simple steps, you can re-use these types of products. Let used turpentine or brush cleaners sit in a closed container until the paint particles settle out. Then pour off the clear liquid, which can be reused. Add an absorbent material, such as the PaintWise Disposal Kit material or kitty litter, to the remaining residue until it becomes dry. Finally, contact your local Council for guidance on disposal.

Other environment savers to try

Buy Resene Environmental Choice approved products

Ministry for the Environment. Look for the Environmental Choice tick on Resene paint containers.



Resene. Certified products since 1996

Water Based Paint
Low VOC 2009

Buy good quality paint

Lower quality paint while cheaper in the short run is a false economy. It will break down quicker necessitating a repaint earlier. The biggest cost of any painting job is the labour - whether this is a painter you hire to do the job for you or your investment of time. It is better to spend a little more on the paint and get a longer life from it than to try to save a few dollars and take years off the paint finish.

Similarly, if you buy a lower quality paint with an expected life of 4-5 years, this means over a 8 year period you will probably have to paint twice. In contrast if you bought a high quality paint with an expected life of 7-8 years you would only need to paint once during this period. The burden on the environment is considerably less with the higher quality paint.

Save unnecessary washing up

Wrap your brush in plastic wrap or place your roller in a plastic bag, squeeze out the air and tie the bag securely around the handle of the roller using a rubberband or tie top. This will keep the paint fresh while you are taking a break and will save you having to rinse out brushes and rollers repeatedly.

Refer to the Resene DIY info leaflets on how to calculate the paint you need and how to clean brushes and rollers or visit the Resene website for ideas.



Be PaintWise with Resene and we'll all benefit from a healthier environment.

Bring unwanted paint and paint containers into selected Resene ColorShop and let us take care of them for you. Resene will offer good quality paint to community groups for reuse and recycle packaging materials that are recyclable.

Selected Resene ColorShops have been designated as Resene PaintWise collection centres. Drop off your unwanted paint and paint containers to any of these designated Resene ColorShops at any time during their opening hours. Full Resene ColorShop address and phone details are listed in the Resene PaintWise brochure or online at www.resene.co.nz/paintwise.htm.

You are welcome to bring back paint and paint packaging no matter what brand. Resene branded paint and paint containers are free to return. A small charge applies to non-Resene branded product to help offset the costs of the PaintWise programme.

The Resene PaintWise programme is run by the non-profit Resene Foundation funded by contributions from Resene, a small levy on retail paint purchases and trade returns.

When dropping off paint and paint containers:

- Ensure paint is in its original correctly labelled container.
- Ensure containers are well sealed and will not leak.
- Leave small amounts of waterborne paint in its container, put out of reach of children and leave the lid off for the paint to dry then bring it in.

We cannot accept:

Paint thinners, solvents, aerosols or any other materials—dispose of these at a HazMobile collection. See www.hazmobile.govt.nz for details or contact your local council.

Due to safety requirements, paint and paint containers will only be accepted at the designated Resene ColorShops during normal store hours. Sorry, paint and packaging returns cannot be accepted by any other Resene ColorShops.

Further information

Visit www.resene.co.nz/paintwise.htm or ask your local Resene ColorShop staff.

Resene
PaintWise



For ideas, inspiration and instructions:

In Australia: Call 1800 738 383, visit www.resene.com.au or email us at advice@resene.com.au

In New Zealand: Call 0800 RESENE (737 363), visit www.resene.co.nz or email us at advice@resene.co.nz