

## **Paint Solvents Use Onsite**

- Ensure a Safety Data Sheet [SDS] is available prior to use of product. Read SDS for special precautions during use and to ensure personal safety equipment is on hand.
- Solvents are **FLAMMABLE** and cannot be stored near an ignition source (spark or flame) or oxidizing agents such as bleach, nitric acid, and peroxides.
- Flammable liquids must be stored in flammable liquid storage cabinets or other approved designated storage areas when not in use.
- Prior to initiating work, ensure that there are adequate paper towels, spill control pillows, or other appropriate absorbent materials on-hand if a spill occurs.
- Review the work area for possible ignition sources. Live electrical circuits, electric sparks, propane torches, welding/brazing activities, static electricity, and hot surfaces are all potential ignition sources.
- Ensure that gloves and eye protection are worn where required.
- Contractors may not transport oily rags or other hazardous waste off UT property.

## **Brush or Roller Oil-Based Paint Applications**

- Only approved and designated containers with lids may be used to soak brushes or rollers in solvent (i.e., mineral spirits, turpentine, denatured alcohol, etc.) so that the evaporation and inhalation of solvent is minimized.
- Oil based paint, paint thinner solvents, brushes or rollers can **NOT** be cleaned at any sink onsite.

## **Brush or Roller Latex Paint Applications**

- Whenever possible, contractors are to clean their latex paint contaminated equipment at their own facility at the end of the workday.
- The 1010 Cass Building's Paint Shop has a sink designated for use in rinsing Latex-Based paint out of paint brushes, rollers, trays, etc. This is the **ONLY** location permitted for this activity. You are **NOT** permitted to rinse brushes, rollers, or anything else with latex paint on it down a storm drain.

## **Paint Related Waste Disposal Procedures**

- Whenever possible, minimize the amount of paint waste you generate by using all the paint in the container for your application.
- Paint solvents may not be disposed of by pouring down any sink drain, storm drain, or by allowing them to evaporate into the air.
- Empty aerosol paint cans may be placed in the common trash. If the spray paint can does not work or the product is unusable, it must be punctured so that the paint can be drained out and disposed of properly. Contact facilities to assist with this process.
- Solvent soaked rags may only be stored in designated metal containers with automatic closing lids. They cannot be allowed to accumulate, as this is a fire hazard. Oil/Solvent soaked rags are not permitted in the trash.
- Used paint solvent may be accumulated in a UT designated and properly labeled container until the container is full or the work is complete. The container must always have a lid in a closed position and tightly sealed when not in use. Once the container is about 90% full, proceed as follows:
  1. Contact Facilities to provide access to the Thompson Chemical Storage Area. Label outside of container with the name of the material in English. Include any major contaminants which are present in the waste. Include your name, project name and the date.
  2. For any material other than paint or paint thinner, if the material is commercially prepared product provide a copy of the SDS.
- Unused flammable solvents, which are no longer needed, should be left in their original containers. Properly label using a hazardous waste label and place in the flammable cabinet in the Thompson Chemical Storage area.
- Unneeded epoxy resins containing flammable solvents may be mixed according to the manufacturer's directions, allowed to harden, and placed in the regular trash. Individually, liquid resin and hardener are not permitted in the trash.

## **How to Dispose of Spray Paint Cans (Aerosols)**

- If the cans contain any remaining product, they should be used up following the safety directions on the label.

- If the spray paint can is empty, it can be placed in the trash.
- Aerosol containers that have usable paint may be taken off-site for use in another job. If the paint container is not usable (i.e., the valve stem is broken color no longer needed) the can must be punctured, paint drained out, and the can recycled. Paint waste will be collected for proper disposal.

### **How to Dispose of Empty Oil-Based or Latex Paint Cans**

- In a place that is protected from rain, leave the can open so that it can dry completely. Dry your paintbrushes, rollers, and cloth in a similar manner before placing them in the trash.
- You can add dry absorbent [an example latex paint hardener brand is Homax Waste Away Paint Hardener available at Home Depot, Lowe's and paint supply stores] or kitty litter for either latex or oil based paint for paint containers that have too much paint in them to harden in a timely manner in order to accelerate the hardening process.
- Wet paint cans may NOT be disposed of in the trash.
- Leave the lid off the paint cans when the cans are placed in the trash so that the hauler can see that they are empty.

### **Spill Procedures:**

- The major hazard of large spills is the potential release of hazardous concentrations of flammable vapors. Therefore, in the event of a large chemical spill (i.e., one gallon container), shut off any ignition sources, and call:

**Security.....813-257-7777 or xtn.7777**

- Evacuate area and do not let anyone enter the spill area.
- Small spills may be absorbed or wiped up using cloth or paper towels. After absorbing any excess liquid, clean-up materials should be placed in paint rag containers in facilities. **DO NOT THROW RAGS AND/OR PAPER TOWELS IN THE TRASH.** Spilled liquid that can be safely recovered should be transferred to an appropriately labeled waste solvent container for proper disposal.



**PAINT WASTE DISPOSAL  
WORK INSTRUCTIONS**  
*Revised August 2024*

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- **Call Security 813-257-7777** to report any spill and request EHS assistance.

**NEVER TRY TO CLEAN UP AN UNKNOWN CHEMICAL SPILL OR MAJOR CHEMICAL SPILL YOURSELF.**