

Paints and Solvents



Paints are either latex (water-based) or alkyd (oil-based).

Solvents include paint thinners, removers or strippers.

Approximately 14-million gallons of architectural paint is sold in Ontario each year. Of this amount, 10%, or 1.4 million gallons, is

estimated to be available for recycling each year. Ontario households generate 36%, or 500,000 gallons, of this recyclable paint.

(Source: Hotz Environmental Services Inc.)

Recycling and disposal options for Ontario households

- Paints and solvents can be taken to municipal household hazardous waste depots, event days or Toxic Taxis for recycling or safe disposal. Eighty-eight percent of Ontario's population has access to these HHW programs.
- To ensure that left-over paint can be recycled, latex paints and oil-based paints should not be mixed.
- Contact your municipality to find out about your local HHW programs.

What happens to paints and solvents that are collected by a municipal HHW program?

- Some municipalities "bulk" paint for use in the community. The choice of colours of bulked paint is often limited (hence the terms "barn paint" or "fence paint"). Paint that is not reused in this way is managed by a licensed waste management company. Oil-based paints and solvents, which are flammable, are "bulked" for fuel-blending. Solvents and oil-based paints may also be disposed of through incineration at a licensed facility. Latex paints are treated and disposed of in landfill. Because of these different end-uses, latex paints and oil-based paints should not be mixed.
- Although many municipalities and other small operations will bulk paint for reuse, there is no recycled (i.e., reprocessed) paint available for sale in Canada. (Source: Hotz Environmental Services Inc.) Hotz, North America's only major paint recycler, sells its recycled paint outside of North America. Hotz recycled paint is made from 100% recycled paint products, which may some times be supplemented with a small amount of new pigment to enhance the paint.

Products made with recycled paint

In Ontario, paint is the only product made with recycled paint. However, some companies in the United States are recycling paint for use as filler in caulking and asphalt mixtures. Oil-based paints may be used for fuel-blending.

(Source: Hotz Environmental Services Inc.)



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Material Fact Sheet Series
A Waste Reduction Week '99 Initiative

This fact sheet has been prepared with support from:



City of Guelph

In 1993, a Paint Plus Reuse Program was set up at the Guelph HHW depot. In addition to paint, home improvement products, stains, cleaners, aerosols, adhesives, drywall compounds and automotive parts are given away through this program. In 1998, the program collected 89,600 litres of paint, and 12,563 litres of this paint were directly reused by Guelph residents.

City of Simcoe

A Reuse Program was set up in 1997 at Simcoe's HHW depot. Paint, stains, cleaners, adhesives and drywall compounds were given away through the program. In 1997, 17% of HHW was diverted, with estimated savings to the county of \$25,407.

County of Northumberland

A Paint Exchange Program was implemented in 1995. Paint, stains, cleaners, solvents, driveway sealer and aerosols were given away through the program. In 1997, 3.3% of HHW was diverted, with estimated savings to the county of \$1,485.



For more information....

- Hotz Environmental Services Inc.
www.hotzenvironmental.com
- Canadian Institute for Environmental Law & Policy
www.web.net/cielap/hazwaste.htm
- Environmental Choice Program
www.environmentalchoice.com
- The Canadian Paint and Coatings Association
<http://www.palantir.ca/sites/cpc>
- Recycling Council of British Columbia/
The Paint Care Association
www.rcbc.bc.ca/mex/paint
- Recycling Council of Ontario
www.rco.on.ca