

3.3.3 Building Trades: Painting Contractors

Tip Sheet #1

WASTE ORIGIN: Inventory Control and Materials Handling

WASTE TYPES: Adhesives and Glues, Cements, Epoxies, Glazes, Paints, Paint Stripping Compounds, Paint Thinners, Solvents and Cleaners, Stains, and Varnishes

WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING METHODS:

- ! Use **inventory control** as a simple waste management tool:
 - ! Pay attention to product *label directions for shelf-life* limits and proper storage conditions;
 - ! Inventory *unopened materials* and return unwanted but usable materials to the distributor or manufacturer, whenever possible:
Develop *vendor agreements* to make this a routine procedure.
 - ! Identify any *material that still may be useful*, log it into current inventory for use;
 - ! Use *old paint* as a base coat or primer;
 - ! Mix the same or similar types of paint when *mixing different colors*;
 - ! Reuse the *clean portion of thinner* after it has separated from the contaminants.
 - ! **Donate** unwanted but usable material to community or high school theaters, or community fix-up projects willing to accept them;
 - ! **Materials exchange services** list sources for unwanted specialty and industrial coatings.
- ! **Arrange painting schedules** to reduce wastes from cleaning equipment between tasks, shifts, or color changes.
- ! Properly **maintain painting tools** like rollers, brushes, and sprayers to increase paint transfer efficiency.
- ! **Train employees** to promote efficient, consistent work habits and efficient materials handling.
- ! **Improve recordkeeping** to develop consistent work procedures, reducing guesswork and mistakes.
- ! **Unusable liquid wastes** may be considered hazardous or non-hazardous, but each requires special handling:
 - ! **Combustible liquid wastes**, like oil-based paints, stains, and other petroleum-based liquids require special attention to determine if they are compatible, and whether they can be consolidated into the same disposal container;
 - ! **Waste waterborne liquids** like latex paints and water-based stains should be managed separately from petroleum-based liquids:
 - ! *Older latex paints* may contain mercury-based fungicides (typically phenyl mercuric acetate); they should be tested and handled as a separate hazardous waste;
 - ! *Cleanup wastewater* from small quantities of latex paints or water-based cleaners may be drained into sewer systems if the local treatment plant allows it; do not dump these wastes into storm sewers or septic tank systems;
 - ! *Large volumes of nonhazardous latex* paint still may require disposal management by a permitted hazardous waste facility.

- ! *Waste chlorinated solvents*, thinners, and paint strippers should always be managed separately.
- ! **Unusable non-liquid hazardous wastes** (cured hardeners, cements, epoxies, adhesives or glazes) may require disposal of the hardened waste and its container in a larger shipping container called a “lab pack” used by disposal companies.
- ! **Recycle empty plastic or metal containers** whenever possible; contact recycling firms and solid waste haulers to see if they accept old paint-related containers.
- ! **Spray paint cans** and other aerosol cans, if not empty, may be subject to hazardous waste disposal requirements.
- ! **Reusable aerosol containers** may be used to spray a variety of liquids that are available in bulk packages, such as solvents and cleaners (lowers purchase and empty container costs).
- ! Contact state, county, or local solid and hazardous **waste management agencies** for current regulatory requirements or disposal options for paint-related wastes.

Sources:

Fact Sheet: *Management Options for Old Paint and Paint-related Materials*, Minnesota Technical Assistance Program, Minneapolis, MN, Publ. 1/95-69, 1995.