

How to Manage Waterborne Automotive Paint Waste

You must manage waste from waterborne automotive paint as dangerous waste, unless you have proved that it does not contain chlorinated pigments or other hazardous chemicals.

Lab testing and safety data sheets are the most reliable ways to find out if your paint waste contains hazardous chemicals. It is the business owner's responsibility to manage waste correctly.



Follow these steps to manage waterborne paint waste according to dangerous waste rules:

- Use separate containers for waterborne paint waste and solvent-based paint waste.
- Clearly label waste drums with the following information.
 1. Contents of the drum (e.g. waterborne paint waste)
 2. The words "dangerous waste" or "hazardous waste"
 3. Major risk(s) of the waste (e.g. toxic, flammable)
 4. Accumulation start date
- Have a hazardous waste vendor pick up your wastes.

You can avoid additional paperwork and legal requirements by creating less than 220 lbs. of waste each month and by having a vendor pick it up before you collect 2,200 lbs.

Here are ways to dispose of your waterborne paint waste, if you have verified that it is not dangerous waste:

- Allow the paint to dry and throw it in the trash.
- Add an absorbent material to solidify the paint. Throw the solidified waste in the trash.
- Spray leftover paint onto cardboard, allow it to dry, and throw it in the trash.

Paint booth filters can go in the trash if they have been verified as non-dangerous waste.

Here are reminders for managing and disposing of any type of paint waste:

- Keep liquid waste out of the trash. Store liquid waste in an appropriate container.
- Avoid spraying excess paint into your paint booth filter.

Here are tips for cleaning your waterborne paint gun:

- Use a water-based gun-cleaning product that does not contain solvents.
- If you must use an organic solvent for detailed cleaning of dried waterborne paint, use acetone for the final rinse. Used acetone should go in the solvent-based waste drum. Avoid lacquer thinner and aerosol gun cleaners.
- Use an enclosed gun-cleaning system.

Contact the Business Waste Line for free, confidential assistance.

📞 206-263-8899

✉ business.waste@kingcounty.gov



Local Hazardous Waste
Management Program
in King County, Washington

Alternate Formats Available
206-263-1672 TTY Relay: 711

HazWasteHelp.org

Printed on recycled paper. Please recycle.
LHWMP_0268 (05/2018)