

# Paint Recycling

## Why is Paint a problem?

Paint contains Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), more commonly referred to as solvents. These VOCs contribute to the production of Ozone and thereby cause air pollution.

Some paints, such as glosses or eggshells, can contain 30% or more VOCs, whereas water-based emulsions may only have 2-3%.

Disposing of paint by pouring it down the sink or anywhere where it could sink into the earth or ground water can be very damaging for wildlife and the environment at large.

If paint is to be thrown away, paper, sawdust or similar should be added to soak up the liquid and prevent spillages.

## Fascinating Facts

- Last year 400 million litres of paint (retail and trade) were sold in the UK. Of this, it is estimated that approximately **56 million litres are unused**, stored in homes or garages or just thrown away. That's enough paint to fill **22 Olympic-sized swimming pools!**
- 'Milk paint' is a traditional, home made paint, which has recently been made available commercially—and one of the key ingredients is milk! It is durable, colourful, and environmentally friendly.



## Recycling Paint

The best way to recycle unwanted paint is to donate full or part used tins to an exchange scheme like Community RePaint. This re-distributes unwanted paint to those who need paint but are unable to afford it.

Dropping your unwanted paint off at your local household recycling centre is another way of making sure that it is reused and benefits others.

### Links:

#### Community RePaint

<http://www.communityrepaint.org.uk/>

A network of paint re-use schemes across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

#### Milk Paint

[www.realmilkpaint.com](http://www.realmilkpaint.com)

The website for the suppliers of milk paint, information about the paint is also available on this site.