



Paint Waste Disposal in Idaho

A waste is a material that is unusable for its intended purpose and is discarded or intended to be discarded. Idaho adopts the federal hazardous waste regulations ([40 CFR parts 124, 260-266, 268, 270, 273, and 279](#)) into state rules ([IDAPA 58.01.05](#)). These regulations require businesses that generate waste to determine if wastes are hazardous and manage accordingly.

What is paint waste?

Paint waste includes any unused, off-specification, or out-of-date paint and paint solids. Examples include unused architectural or automotive paint, overspray from a painting operation, or paint chips. Paint waste is commonly generated by automotive shops, paint retailers, professional painters, and commercial facilities with a painting process. However, paint waste could also be generated at any business that performs its own paint-related work.

Is paint waste hazardous?

Paint waste may be hazardous depending on the type of paint. Oil-based paint is typically hazardous waste because it exhibits the characteristic of ignitibility. Paint that has been mixed or contaminated with solvent will also likely exhibit the characteristic of ignitibility or be considered F-Listed. See DEQ's [Common Business Waste](#) for more information on proper management of spent solvents and solvent-contaminated wipes and rags. Some paints contain heavy metals (e.g., lead, cadmium, chromium), which make them hazardous for the characteristic of toxicity.

Latex, acrylic, or water-based paints are typically not hazardous unless they contain heavy metals or are contaminated with hazardous waste.

Any business that generates paint waste must first determine if the waste is hazardous before disposing of it. See DEQ's fact sheet [Hazardous Waste Determinations](#) for more information.

Note: household paint waste is not regulated under the hazardous waste regulations. See DEQ's [Household Hazardous Waste](#) page for more information on household paint disposal.

How do I dispose of hazardous waste paint?

Businesses must manage hazardous waste paint under Idaho's hazardous waste regulations in [IDAPA 58.01.05](#). To determine which regulations apply, businesses should first determine their generator size category. See DEQ's fact sheet [determining hazardous waste generator size category](#) for more information.

Next, review the [Idaho hazardous waste generator requirements summary](#) for more information on the onsite handling and disposal requirements for each generator size.

- Large quantity generators (LQGs) and small quantity generators (SQGs) must use a hazardous waste transporter to transport their hazardous waste paint to a treatment, storage, and disposal facility (TSDF) permitted to accept their waste. See DEQ's [Hazardous Waste Transporter Directory](#) for more information.
- Very small quantity generators (VSQGs) may dispose of hazardous waste paint at a solid waste management facility if the receiving facility grants approval beforehand. VSQGs may still need to ship their hazardous waste paint to a TSDF if solid waste disposal is not an option.

How do I dispose of nonhazardous paint?

Nonhazardous paint waste is regulated under Idaho's solid waste program and may be subject to local government regulations. Businesses are encouraged to develop a disposal plan for nonhazardous paint. Businesses are allowed to solidify their own nonhazardous paint waste if they can ensure there are no releases to the environment and the resulting solid waste is disposed of properly. However, it is often impractical to solidify the quantities of paint waste generated from a painting operation. In these instances, businesses should take their nonhazardous paint waste to a solid waste management facility (e.g., landfill). Contact the facility beforehand to ensure they can manage the waste. Paint waste should never enter a storm drain, septic system, or be dumped on the ground.

Latex paint can also be recycled or donated. Check with your city, local organizations, or landfills for opportunities to recycle or donate unused latex paint.

Latex paint wash water. Businesses should also develop a disposal plan for latex paint wash water. The wash water can often be discharged to a publically-owned treatment works (POTW). However, businesses should check with the POTW before any discharge. If discharge to a POTW is not an option, businesses may take latex paint wash water to a solid waste management facility. Businesses are also allowed to solidify their own wash water if they can ensure there are no releases to the environment and the resulting solid waste is disposed of properly. Never allow wash water to enter a storm drain, septic system, or be dumped on the ground.

How do I dispose of lead-based paint debris?

Idaho has separate standards for demolition and renovation debris with lead-based paint. See DEQ's fact sheet [Lead Based Paint Debris](#) for more information.

For more information

All fact sheets listed in this guidance and other resources can be found on Idaho's hazardous waste webpage at:

www.deq.idaho.gov/waste-management-and-remediation/hazardous-waste-in-idaho/.

For specific questions, contact your DEQ regional office:

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| • Boise: | (208) 373-0550 | • Lewiston: | (208) 799-4370 |
| • Coeur d'Alene: | (208) 769-1422 | • Pocatello: | (208) 236-6160 |
| • Idaho Falls: | (208) 528-2650 | • Twin Falls: | (208) 736-2190 |