



Clovis Fire Department

Standard # 20

DISPOSAL OF PAINTS

There have been many inquiries from Clovis citizens regarding the disposal of latex and oil based paints. To address the concerns, the following information has been provided.

At present there is only one approved location where latex or oil base paints can be taken. The location is at Waste Management Company, Inc., in Kettleman Hills, California. The cost associated with disposal is extremely expensive and it takes about three hours round trip to drive there.

The City of Clovis, in conjunction with Fresno County Health Department, Hazardous Waste Division has a special hazardous waste disposal pick-up twice a year, in the spring and fall. There will be a pick-up site located in the Clovis Area. Dates, times and location will be announced prior to the pick-up day.

In checking with the Fresno County Health Department and Clovis Refuse Department, the following methods are approved for immediate disposal of paint:

1. Place a drop cloth made of plastic or fabric that is **non-penetrable** on the ground. Weight the corners and pour the latex or oil base paint onto the drop cloth. Do not let the paint touch any other surfaces (i.e. the ground). Let the paint dry completely. (Some oil base paints may take several days to dry) When the paint is completely dry it can be broken up into pieces and put in your regular gray refuse cart. The empty paint can, without its lid, can also be placed in your gray refuse cart.
2. The second method recommended is to mix your leftover paint with cat litter. Put enough litter into the paint until it is dried up and can be touched with a stick or pencil and no paint comes off. The cat litter can then be put into a plastic or paper bag and disposed of in your gray refuse cart.

It is a violation to disperse liquid paint on the ground or in a trash container and carries a heavy fine when caught doing so. It is also a hazard to the employees who pick up the trash if it has been placed in the trash in closed containers. The compactor compresses the container and it can rupture, throwing paint into the eyes and onto the skin of City personnel.

We ask that you dispose of paint as listed above for the safety of your family and community. Should you have any concerns or questions please contact our office at (559) 324-2200.