

Iowa DNR/Household Hazardous Materials

Material: Oil-Based Paint

Potential Hazards: May contain alkyd, resin, mineral spirits. Also contains volatile organic compounds (VOCs), which are carbon-based chemicals that easily evaporate at room temperature. These vapors are flammable. Inhaling them may cause eye, nose and throat irritation and headaches, dizziness, and nausea/vomiting.

Recycle/Reuse: If you have leftover oil-based paint, check with neighbors, church groups or the local community to see if other residents can use it. If the paint is not contaminated or old and has not been frozen or otherwise improperly stored, many RCCs will accept oil-based paint at their swap shops, where you may donate the paint for others to use.

Proper Disposal: Use this product up or take it to your local Regional Collection Center, find yours at iowadnr.gov/hhm under the RCC tab.

Green Alternatives: Green alternatives such as latex paints, which clean up with water and are VOC-free, are available at your local retailers and are better for your family and the environment. Look for paint low in VOCs. VOCs create the “new paint smell” that can pollute indoor air quality and cause health problems. Remember to buy only the amount you need for the job so you won’t need to store leftover paint. You can help keep paint from going bad by storing the can upside-down, making sure the lid is on tightly. This creates an air proof seal around the lid.