



## Nova Scotia Paint Recycling Program

*New Life for  
Leftover Paint*

For more information about the  
Nova Scotia Paint Recycling Program contact:



14 Court Street, Suite 305  
Truro, Nova Scotia  
B2N 3H7

1-877-313-RRFB (7732)

Fax: (902) 897-3256

E-mail: [info@rrfb.com](mailto:info@rrfb.com)

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

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### Give Paint a Second Chance

**PAINT.** It covers our walls, buildings, fences and countless other surfaces. It brings colour, variety and personality to where we work, live and play.

However, paint has other qualities we don't always consider. If improperly stored or disposed of, some types of paint can harm the environment.

The *Nova Scotia Paint Recycling Program* aims to bring new life to unused paint – and save a valuable resource. The program means Nova Scotians can return leftover paint to any one of the province's Enviro-Depots® – at no charge. The unused paint will be recycled into new paint products.

We all benefit from giving paint a second chance. The paint recycling program will create jobs, reduce waste, re-use resources wisely – and above all, protect Nova Scotia's environment.

The *Nova Scotia Paint Recycling Program* is supported by the paint industry – which is committed to the responsible stewardship of its products. The program is unique in Atlantic Canada and will be managed by RRFB Nova Scotia. Working together, consumers, industry and government can sustain Nova Scotia's position as a world leader in recycling.

### Paint Recycling: It's Easy & Convenient

Returning your cans, bottles and cartons for recycling? Now you can add leftover paint to the list. The province's Enviro-Depots® now accept, at no charge, latex and oil-based paints along with other recyclable materials.

Some paints – such as industrial and lead-based coatings – and related items like solvents, brushes and rags are not acceptable for recycling. Please refer to the tear-off panel of this brochure for a list of the paint products that Enviro-Depots® will and will not accept.

**REMEMBER: Don't abandon paint products at a depot, or anywhere.** It's irresponsible – and illegal. For information about safe disposal of solvents, paint thinners (such as Varsol®) or other household hazardous waste not included in the *Nova Scotia Paint Recycling Program*, contact your local municipality or RRFB Nova Scotia's Recycling Helpline at **1-877-313-RRFB (7732)**.

### Three Million Cans of Paint on the Wall?

*Did you know Nova Scotians purchase more than three million containers of paint every year? Up to 25% of this paint is never used. The Nova Scotia Paint Recycling Program will help keep paint out of landfills – and out of our environment. With your help, we can do it!*

## Keep the Lid on Safety

Enviro-Depot® personnel are trained to safely handle and store leftover paint. By following some basic guidelines, you can make returning paint a safe experience.

- Make sure paint is tightly sealed in its original container.
- Containers must be clearly labeled with their contents.
- Don't return paint in glass containers.
- Don't mix alkyd (oil-based) with latex (water-based) paints.
- Don't leave paint in your vehicle for long periods, especially during hot weather.

## Recycle Paint as a Last Resort

With any recycling program, reduction and reuse should always be considered first. And paint is no exception. Paint should be bought in the right amount, stored properly, used up, donated and exchanged before recycling is even considered. After all, paint is a valuable resource.

## Clever Cover-ups

Here are a few smart ways to use leftover paint:

- Save paint for touch-ups and smaller jobs.
- Exchange paint with neighbours.
- Donate paint to local community groups.

**Try to use the “BUD” Rule:**

**Buy only the paint you need.**

**Use all the paint you buy.**

**Dispose of leftover paint safely.**

## Tips for Storing Paint

When properly stored, paint can last for years – until it can be used up.

- Clean the can rim for a tight seal. Pour 1/8” (3mm) of water on top of latex paint, or 1/8” (3mm) of solvent on oil-based, and seal the lid.
- Here's another option. Cover the can opening with plastic wrap and fit the lid securely. Then store the paint can upside down.
- Keep paint away from heat sources – and store between 3° and 35° Celsius.
- Keep paint out of the reach of children and pets.

## Are Empty Paint Cans Accepted in Municipal Waste Management Programs?

Empty paint containers can be placed at the curb to be collected for disposal by your local municipality as long as the paint is dry and the lids are removed. Check with your municipality for details.

## Leftover Paint: What's Acceptable, What's Not

### Enviro-Depots® DO ACCEPT:

#### HOUSEHOLD PAINTS

- Interior & exterior latex, alkyd, enamel & oil-based paints
- Porch, floor and deck paints
- Interior and exterior varnishes & urethanes
- Primers, undercoats, block fillers & sealers
- Marine enamels (must not contain pesticides)
- Wood finishing oils and stains
- Rust paint, decorative metal paints
- Fence and barn paints
- Aluminum paints

#### PAINT AEROSOLS

- Latex
- Alkyds
- Varathanes



### Enviro-Depots® DON'T ACCEPT:

- Empty paint cans
- Cans that are BULGING
- Paints containing pesticides (e.g. marine anti-fouling paint and wood preservatives)
- Unpressurized craft and artist paints
- Unpressurized automotive paints
- Industrial paints
- Two-part paints (e.g. urethanes & epoxies)
- Roof patch, tars, grease
- Solvents (e.g. paint thinner or Varsol®)
- Cans with any concentration of polychlorinated biphenyl's (PCBs)
- Other household hazardous waste
- Glues and adhesives
- Traffic paint
- Deck cleaners
- Lead labeled paints
- Lacquers
- Epoxies
- Corrosive products
- Brushes, rags and rollers



#### PAINT AEROSOLS (NOT ACCEPTED)

- Lacquers
- Adhesives
- Automotive