Got leftover paint?

Get with the Resene PaintWise programme!

More than six litres of household paint is sold for each and every person living here every year. That’s a lot of paint particularly as much of it is left sitting in paint containers and ends up in landfills. Disposing of paint correctly is important otherwise harmful components may be discharged into groundwater or streams affecting other living animals, fish or plants. There are lots of ways you can reduce this burden on the environment... here’s some ideas to get you started:

Reduce: Buy only the paint you need

The best way to save waste is to avoid buying too much. Carefully measure up the area you plan to paint and use the coverage recommendations on the side of paint containers to check how much you need or ask Resene ColorShop staff for assistance. If you buy what you need and find you have paint left at the end of the job, you have probably applied it too thinly – in which case the best idea is to paint an extra coat to give the surface full protection as a thin coat means that the paint finish will not wear as well. Don’t be tempted to buy an unnecessarily large pack size just because it is on special - remember the best deal is the one that gives you just the paint you need.

Use: Use all your paint

If you have leftover paint, use it for touch-up jobs and smaller projects or add another coat to your paint finish for extra protection. Waterborne paints are also ideal for creating signs and banners and can be a much cheaper and more durable option than expensive felt pens - this can be a great way to use up any extra paint you may have.

Store: Store paint so it lasts for years

Brushes or rollers can transfer contamination from the surface you are painting back into the paint. The best way to work with paint is to tip out a small volume into a separate paint pot and use this for painting. Pour paint and get a longer life from it than to try to save a few dollars and take years off the paint finish.

Similarly, if you buy a lower quality paint with an expected life of 4-5 years, this means over a 8 year period you will probably have to paint twice. In contrast if you bought a high quality paint with an expected life of 7-8 years you or your investment of time. It is better to spend a little more on the paint job is the labour - whether this is a painter you hire to do the job for you or your investment of time. It is better to spend a little more on the paint and get a longer life from it than to try to save a few dollars and take years off the paint finish.

Save unnecessary washing up

Wrap your brush in plastic wrap or place your roller in a plastic bag, squeeze out the air and tie the bag securely around the handle of the roller using a rubberband or tie top. This will keep the paint fresh while you are taking a break and will save you from having to re-prepare the brushes and rollers repeatedly.

Buy good quality paint

Lower quality paint while cheaper in the short run is a false economy. It will break down quicker necessitating a repaint and is the biggest cost of any painting job is the labour - whether this is a painter you hire to do the job for you or your investment of time. It is better to spend a little more on the paint and get a longer life from it than to try to save a few dollars and take years off the paint finish.

Other environmental savers to try:

- Buy Resene Environmental Choice approved products
- Buy Resene Environmental Choice recommended products
- Calculate the paint you need and how to clean brushes
- Consult a DIY professional
- Donate: Donate to charity
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- Free up the access to your local community groups, schools, art groups and so on. You’ll save them money and get the best use out of your paint leftovers at the same time.

Don’t mix waterborne and solventborne paints. If mixed, paint cannot be re-blended or reused.

Make sure you donate the paint in its original container with the contents clearly marked so the recipient knows what they are receiving and how to handle it. Always check paint before you donate it to ensure it is still in good condition. It’s best to donate paint as soon as you discover you don’t need it, such as when you change your colour scheme, rather than holding onto it just in case.

Return your unwanted paint to Resene

The Resene PaintWise service is supported by:

For more information visit www.resene.co.nz/paintwise or ask your local Resene ColorShop staff.
When dropping off paint and paint containers:

- Ensure paint is in its original correctly labelled container.
- Ensure containers are well sealed and will not leak.
- For empty paint containers, simply allow the contents to dry out (take the lid off and leave out of the reach of children), then bring it in to one of the Resene ColorShops detailed in this leaflet with the lid off the container so staff can see if it is dry and empty.

We cannot accept:
Automotive, marine paints, aerosols or any other materials - contact your local council for recommended disposal.

Handle with care

Properly sealed solvents and thinners have an almost unlimited shelf life. Keep and use.

Solventborne paints require special disposal practices. They are also ignitable and present other hazards. These products must never be poured down storm drains, the household sink (especially if you have a septic tank) or on the ground. Return solventborne paints to the Resene PaintWise service or hold for a ‘Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day’. If your local community does not undertake such programmes, contact your local Council for disposal guidance.

Paint thinners, turpentine, mineral spirits and solvents should never be poured down a drain or the storm sewers. With the following simple steps, you can re-use these types of products. Let used turpentine or brush cleaners sit in a closed container until the paint particles settle out. Then pour off the clear liquid, which can be reused. Add an absorbent material, such as the PaintWise Disposal Kit material or kitty litter, to the remaining residue until it becomes dry. Finally, contact your local Council for guidance on disposal.

You can also return mineral turps, paint thinners, raw or boiled linseed oil, tung oil, methylated spirits and solventborne brush cleaners to Resene PaintWise. The solvents can be ‘dirty’ - i.e. they have been used for cleaning, but must be in their original identifiable container for safety reasons.

Resene ColorShops do sometimes move locations - check www.resene.co.nz/paintwise for the latest Resene PaintWise locations.