Disposal of Paint and Paint Related Wastes

Purpose:

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide guidance for the proper collection, storage and disposal of latex, epoxy, and oil-based paint wastes used in and around University buildings.

Scope:

This policy applies not only to all SUNY New Paltz facilities operations employees, but shall also include supervisory technicians and faculty in all academic departments using and thereby disposing of paint and paint related wastes.

Procedures:

Latex Paints

Latex or acrylic latex paints are paints that use water as the primary vehicle or thinner. Latex paints are considered low toxicity materials and are not required to be collected as hazardous wastes. However, cans cannot be disposed of in the regular trash **unless they meet the following requirements:**

1 - All free liquid must be solidified or evaporated prior to placing in a trash dumpster. Free liquid may be solidified in the paint can by adding speedy dry, cat litter or another equivalent absorbent;

2 - Once the paint has been solidified, it may be placed in the trash. Alternatively, if a small amount of residual paint has been left in the bottom of the can, it may be left out to dry. Once dry, the can may be placed in the trash.

Oil-Based Paints:

Oil based paints use one of many organic solvents instead of water as the primary vehicle or thinner. Common solvents used in oil base paints include mineral spirits, toluene, xylene, and other petroleum distillate solvents. These solvents can cause the paint to be combustible or flammable. Oil based paints are considered hazardous waste and must be properly managed as such. All procedures concerning the collection of hazardous wastes such as collection, labeling, satellite accumulation, etc., must be followed. Refer to the SUNY New Paltz EHS website on the management of hazardous waste. Upon notification, EHS will collect and properly dispose of oil-based paints.

Please feel free to contact EHS at x3310 for further guidance should you have questions regarding the information contained herein.