Best practices for painting projects

By Dave Marble, Manager, Habitat for Humanity ReStore

Summer often means it is painting time. As you are going through your paint supplies, you may notice that you have paint that you don’t want or need anymore. So, what will you do with it? Wash it down the drain? Dump it in the back yard? Throw it in regular garbage? Unfortunately, those choices are not good for the environment or perhaps even illegal.

So what can be done? Through a program called “Paint Care of Oregon,” we can help you dispose of many paint products at the Habitat for Humanity Re-Store and you will get a tax deductible donation receipt for it. The ReStore resells usable paint to help raise money to build homes. The rest goes to be recycled. There are certain limitations. Generally, most residential latex and oil based paints are accepted (with original labels), even if they are dried up. Yes, there is even a use for dried up paints! Stains are great for donations too. Spray cans that are working are good for donating. Come into the ReStore and check us out for your painting needs! We can also help with contractor donations on paint products. Call us for possible solutions.

There are certain items that cannot be donated to the Re-Store. Anything without a label, yard and garden chemicals, and household cleaning products need to go to the transfer station for effective handling.

Painting tips for Homeowners

When painting, the most important thing is good preparation. Painting can be a lot of fun, when it is well planned out. Be sure to allow enough time. To help with the overall project, divide it into pieces. Here are some things that you may need to do: Create access to the painting area by pruning shrubs. Test for existing lead based paint, and follow safety precautions. Remove all the loose paint (pressure washing may help with this). Fill holes and prime at least the spots where there is bare wood. Tint the primer for better coverage. Believe the label on the can when it suggests more than one coat. Avoid spraying on windy days. A gust of wind can spread paint over the cars in your neighborhood. Not good! Pace yourself. Try to do a little bit really well, and reward yourself with a break. Fall is the best season for painting, so avoid the heat if it bothers you. One final tip: When painting the trim boards, the faces and the edges are both painted, but often different colors. Look at how this is done on many houses. It greatly speeds up doing the trim. Be good to yourself, and enjoy a job well done!

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Columbia County Habitat for Humanity ReStore
ReStore Hours:
Monday - Saturday: 9AM to 5PM
Sunday: Closed
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