

Store it properly and Extend the life of your Leftover Paint

You may choose to keep a small amount of paint for touch ups or small projects. Leftover paint can last for years, if it is well-sealed and stored in a appropriate location. Here are a few tips to help:

- **Cover the opening** of the paint can with a plastic wrap before closing the lid. This will help create an additional seal when the can is closed.
- **Use a mallet** to close paint can for a better seal. Hammers can dent and bend the rim of the paint can; mallets are gentler. Use a small towel over the lid to help impact.
- **Store the paint can upside down** to prevent air from drying out the paint. Some local programs discourage this practice because if the paint goes bad, it may make the lid difficult to open.
- **Store paint away from extreme heat and cold** to avoid unusable spoiled paint. Avoid fluctuating temperatures, especially storage near furnaces and direct sunlight. Store in a cool, dry area.
- **Write on the lid** of each can for future identification:
 - Date Opened
 - Type
 - Colour
 - Batch
 - Room it is for
- **Leave the original label** on the paint can. This will you will know what type/color of paint is inside for disposal purposes.
- **Keep contaminants out of paint cans.** Pretty much anything will contaminate your paint, making it difficult to donate or dispose of properly

Store paint in a safe location. It should be out of reach of children and pets.