

# The Gainesville Zero Waste News

## How to Save Money by Reducing Paint Waste

One of the most effective ways to save money on home painting projects is by minimizing paint waste. Reducing paint waste saves you money and benefits the environment by decreasing the amount of hazardous materials needing disposal. **Here are several strategies to help you reduce paint waste and stretch your budget further.**



### Plan Ahead -

- **Measure the Area:** Knowing the exact dimensions of your project and using an online paint calculator helps you purchase the right amount of paint, preventing overbuying.
- **Choose the Right Paint:** Research and select the appropriate paint for your specific needs to avoid unnecessary waste. If in doubt, get small samples made that you can take home and test out on your walls before purchasing larger quantities.
- **Brushes and Rollers:** Higher quality brushes and rollers will lead to smoother applications and using less paint. Save even more by checking out local reuse outlets, such as [Renovator Reuse](#) and [The Repurpose Project](#) for gently-used paint supplies.
- **Hard to Beat Free:** The [Alachua County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center](#) offers free recycled paint.

### On the Job -

- **Limit the Pour:** By only pouring out what paint you'll need immediately, you can prevent paint from drying out or becoming contaminated, which can lead to waste.
- **Mix Paint Properly:** Stirring up your paint prevents uneven coverage and reduces the likelihood of needing extra coats.
- **Combine Similar Colors:** Combining similar colors of leftover paint for use as a base coat can reduce the need to buy new paint.

### Wrapping Up -

- **Recycling Paint:** Gainesville and Alachua County residents can drop off almost any type of interior or exterior paint for recycling at the [Alachua County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center](#) and at any of the five [Alachua County Rural Collection Centers](#).
- **Donate Extra Paint:** If you have unopened or usable leftover paint, consider donating it to schools, community centers, or charitable organizations.

Reducing paint waste is a practical and effective way to save money on your painting projects and contribute to a sustainable environment.

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