

How to estimate how much paint you will need.

Below is an example based on a 30'x20' room with two windows and two doors.

1.

100'

x

10'

=

1,000'

Width of all walls added together (ft.)

Height of the wall (ft.)

Total Wall Surface (ft.) added together

2.

20'

x

30'

=

600'

Width of ceiling (ft.)

Length of ceiling (ft.)

Total ceiling area (ft.)

3.

4'

x

3'

=

12'

Height of window (ft.)

Width of window (ft.)

Window surface (ft.)

4. Repeat line #3 for each window and add all window surface areas together.

5.

6'

x

3'

=

18'

Height of door (ft.)

Width of door (ft.)

Door surface area (ft.)

6. Repeat line #5 for each door and add all door surface areas together.

7.

24'

+

36'

=

60'

Total from line #3 (ft.)

Total from line #5 (ft.)

Total Surface not painted.(ft.)

8.

1,600'

-

60'

=

1,540'

Total from lines #1&2 (ft.)

Total from line #7 (ft.)

Total surface to be painted (ft.)

9.

1,540'

/

400*

=

3.85 (4 gal)

Total from line #8

Coverage area per gallon (ft.)

of gallons needed for each coat

*400 ft. is approximately 4 gallons. Every paint varies so please check the paint can before you buy it.

What to do with leftovers.

Here are a few ways to deal with leftovers:

- **Store paint so it will last for years.** Simply cover the opening with plastic wrap and make sure the lid fits securely so the paint doesn't leak. Store the paint upside down. The paint will create a tight seal around the lid, keeping the paint fresh until you use it again. Store cans in a dry location that will not freeze.
- **Don't forget touch ups and smaller projects.** Properly stored paint can be used for touch ups to extend the life of a paint job and for taking care of small projects. You can also blend and mix smaller quantities of similar colors of latex paint to use as a primer.
- **Donate or exchange your paint.** If you are unable to use your leftover paint, donate it to community groups, theater groups, schools, churches or anyone who may need it.
- **Revisit the paint store.** If you have usable paint in an undesirable color, ask the store if they will tint it to your liking.

Close the loop with recycling.

When you can, buy recycled paint. Ask your local retailer for recycled paint and buy it whenever it works for your project. **Recycle the empty paint cans.** Once you have used all of the paint—recycle the empty paint cans, plastic paint pails and containers.

Tips for proper paint disposal

- **Dry out your unused latex-based paint and discard it.** When there's an inch or less of paint in the can, open the can and let the liquid evaporate. For larger amounts, mix in kitty litter, stir until liquid is absorbed. When the paint is completely dried out, leave the lid off and throw the can in the garbage.
- **Save unused oil-based paint for proper hazardous waste collection.** It should be taken to a paint recycling center or a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event. For information, call 713-290-3000 or log on to www.CleanWaterways.org for upcoming events.

Remember—Paint and storm drains don't mix!

Never put any paint down a storm drain. These drains are just for rainwater. The water is not treated and ultimately flows into Galveston Bay. So anything that goes down there besides clean water is a clear case of pollution.

To report Illegal Dumping call:
Harris County Pollution Control at 713-920-2831
City of Houston – 311

Pollution costs us all . . .and there are fines

Hazardous Waste Dumping Criminal Offenses and Penalties

Texas Water Code, Section 7.162

- A person who intentionally or knowingly transports, stores or disposes any hazardous waste without a manifest or without all required permits.
- Individuals—imprisonment up to 10 years and/or a \$1,000 fine to \$50,000 fine.
- Corporations—\$1,000 to \$250,000 fine.

Used Oil Dumping Criminal Offenses and Penalties

Texas Water Code, Section 7.176

- A person intentionally discharges used oil or knowingly disposes of or otherwise handles any used oil within the State of Texas in violation of the rules for used oil.
- Each day is a separate violation. Fine of not less than \$1,000 or more than \$50,000 and/or imprisonment up to five years.

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The Household Paint Planner How much to buy, how to store it and what to do with the cans.

Finally, a way to find out exactly how much paint you need.

All of us have experienced the pains and pleasures of household painting projects. One of the biggest mysteries seems to be buying just the right amount for your project, without having too much left over.

With that in mind, the Harris County Watershed Protection Group presents this handy guide for planning your next painting project.



First, some general hints about coverage:

- **Don't buy a gallon when a quart will do. One gallon of paint will cover 300 to 400 square feet.**
- **Quality can increase coverage. So do your research—sometimes a more expensive, higher quality paint can actually save you money because it requires fewer coats and less frequent repainting.**
- **Don't dilute paint unless you are sure the quality will not be affected. Don't mix paints unless they are compatible.**
- **Don't put paint on too thick! It's more likely to chip and crack.**
- **Maximize the second coat by waiting at least 24 hours between coats.**

Now that you've got the general idea, open this brochure to get even better coverage.

Water Pollution Criminal Offenses and Penalties
Texas Water Code, Section 7.145
• A person intentionally or knowingly discharges or permits the discharge of a waste or pollutant into or adjacent to water in the state that causes or threatens to cause water pollution without strict compliance with all required permits or other authorization. Water in the state includes drainage ditches and storm water sewers.
• Each day is a separate violation.
• Imprisonment up to five years and/or a fine up to \$100,000.
Endangerment Criminal Offense and Penalties
Texas Water Code, sections 7.152-4
• Individual—Imprisonment up to ten years and/or a fine up to \$500,000
• Corporation: Fine up to \$250,000
Local and State Administrative and Civil Penalties for Non-Compliance with Storm Water Laws and Regulations:
• Harris County's Local Regulations—up to \$1,000 per day per violation
• City of Houston's Local Ordinances—Maximum of \$2,000 per day per violation
• Texas Water Code, Section 7.052—up to \$10,000 per day per violation
• Texas Water Code, Section 7.102—up to \$25,000 per day per violation
The Harris County Watershed Protection Group has a host of brochures on interesting topics for everyone in Harris County.
• Keeping Your Septic System Healthy
• Picking Up the Pieces Before and After a Severe Weather Event
• The Household Paint Planner
• How to Run a Cleaner Construction Site
For copies of any of these publications, or to find how to dispose of leftover paint contact the Harris County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program, call us at 713-290-3000.

