
Disposal and Recycling of Floor Project Waste

This document acts as guidance to assist contractors with the disposal or recycling of day to day waste products such as (see your State or Territory EPA regulations for prescribed requirements):

- Coating tins/drums
- Abrasive materials
- Adhesive containers
- Flooring off-cuts (timber, bamboo, engineered and laminate)
- Clean dust
- Re-sand dust (contains coating and/or adhesive)

Handling and storage suggestions

To handle hazardous waste you should:

- Store goods in clean containers, if containers are leaking, use new containers but never use food containers.
- Make sure all labels, including warning labels and manufacturer's instructions, remain intact on the packaging.
- Store goods upright with lids secured tightly and out of the reach of children.
- Keep all ignition sources (rags, dust, gas, matches, etc), well away from the storage area.
- Keep the storage area cool and dry.
- Store the smallest amount possible.

A definition of hazardous waste can be viewed at:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/settlements/publications/chemicals/hazardous-waste/paper2.html#download>

Disposing of Coating Waste

Follow these directions to dispose of coating waste or to clean coating equipment in a responsible way. Note, often water based products may also contain volatile substances.

Water-based Coating: Do's

- ◀ Transfer as much coating as possible from rollers, brushes and trays into clean containers at the end of the day or job (not previously food containers)
- ◀ Transfer water used to clean one applicator tray into the next tray to be cleaned and so on
- ◀ If possible, run off applicators into a waste coating drum before washing, then, let the waste coating dry and dispose of it as solid waste (details following)
- ◀ Wash applicators in a pail or small container using as little water as possible
- ◀ Re-use the water used to clean coating equipment where practicable (for example, use it for cleaning again the following day)
- ◀ Place all wastewater from equipment cleaning into a larger drum and allow the solids to settle, then tip the clear water onto a flat, or grassy area away from sewers, stormwater drains or natural waterways
- ◀ For small quantities of unwanted water-based coating, pour coating over absorbent material (e.g. kitty litter), allow to dry thoroughly, then dispose of it as a solid in general waste
- ◀ Dispose of larger amounts of coating waste by sealing the tin and leaving them for chemical collections (details following).

Water-based Coatings: DON'Ts

- ◀ Wash applicators and trays by flushing them under running water that ends up in the sewer, stormwater network or natural waterways
- ◀ Empty coating waste water into any drain or natural waterway or somewhere where it can reach a drain or waterway.

Solvent-based Coating: Do's

- ◀ Transfer as much coating as possible from applicators and trays back into clean containers at the end of the job (not previously food containers)
- ◀ Run off applicators into a drum for solvent wastes after cleaning them in a minimum amount of solvent
- ◀ Place all solvent into the drum and keep a lid tightly on it to stop harmful substances evaporating
- ◀ Re-use the solvent used to clean coating equipment where practicable (for example, use it for cleaning again the following day or to clean multiple trays)
- ◀ Properly dispose of unwanted, used solvent through chemical collections (details following)
- ◀ Place rags used with oil based products in a bucket of water to minimise spontaneous combustion after use and then dispose of normally, alternatively lay them out flat to dry externally.

Solvent-based Coatings: DON'Ts

- ◀ Dispose of used solvent by tipping it where it will end up down a drain leading to the sewer, stormwater network or a natural waterway
- ◀ Dispose of the solid waste along with household waste.

Disposal services and chemical collection

In the first instance contact your local council to determine if a local disposal site exists for the disposal or recycling of hazardous waste – this may apply to all types of flooring waste with the exception of clean wood dust and flooring off cuts.

In some areas, empty and well cleaned coating tins/drums can be recycled.

Some State Governments provide domestic chemical collection and disposal services, however, for larger and regular quantities the Federal Government have established arrangements via EPA agencies contracted to fee for service organisations such as:

Chem Collect (fees apply)

NSW 1800 507 654

VIC 1800 660 667

WA 1800 016 622 (though this may change soon)

SA 1800 623 445

QLD 1800 501 087

TAS 03 6233 6518

ACT & NT No Service

Additionally, the Australian Paint Manufacturers Federation has a website which assists with coating can and left over coating disposal, visit <http://www.paintcan.org/default.asp>

Disposal of adhesive containers

Ensure containers and scraps are contained and have dried completely, then dispose of as above. Note, often water based products may also contain volatile substances. Sausage pack wrapping (flexible containers) are quickly growing with popularity as disposal of used wrappers is more effective than disposing of metal or plastic drums.

Disposal of re-sand dust

Re-sand dust often contains hazardous substances from coating or adhesive products, coating from older floors may even contain lead (in this case check with your local authority on acceptable removal practices). It is recommended re-sand dust be carefully collected from the site and disposed of as outlined in the 'Disposal services and chemical collection' section above. Dust should be placed in strong, bio-degradable bags. In the case of re-sand dust where an oil based product was utilised, ensure the dust is first drenched in water to avoid spontaneous combustion, immediately after sanding and before disposal.

Clean dust

Clean wood dust (wood, bamboo and from non-coated engineered flooring) is considered a carcinogen and should also be disposed of as outlined in the 'Disposal services and chemical collection' section above. It is not advisable to use on gardens, in fires or other domestic situations. Dust should be placed in strong, bio-degradable bags.

Flooring off-cuts

Often, the public may seek off cuts for firewood, this is OK for many species though some have characteristics inappropriate for burning in domestic situations, these include (but are not restricted to):

- Timber treated against insect attack
- Laminate and engineered flooring
- Bamboo flooring