

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

For more information, call 610-273-3771 ext. 226
Nancy Fromnick, County Recycling Coordinator

WHEN IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT!

Chester County residents are great recyclers, but shouldn't be tempted to be too zealous putting items in the bin that do not belong and "trashing" the recyclables. Properly prepared and collected recyclables are valued commodities sold on a global market. When too many non-recyclables (trash) are mixed in with the recyclables it all becomes "trash", is too costly to separate and requires disposal at a landfill.

Scrap metal, pieces of wood, yard waste and children's toys are just a few of the items that "*contaminate*" the recyclables. Scrap metal may be taken to a scrap dealer, yard waste should be composted and reusable children's toys may be donated or thrown away if broken. Do not put them in the recycling bins.

Plastic bags present another problem. Recyclables should never be put in plastic bags. Plastic bags are not recyclable in curbside programs. They jam the source separating equipment at recycling facilities. Plastic shopping bags can be returned to your local grocery store and plastic trash bags should be used for trash only not recyclables.

Most curbside programs in Chester County collect mixed paper, flattened corrugated cardboard cut down to 18" x 24", glass bottles and jars, steel and aluminum cans, plastic bottles with #1 and #2 in a recycling symbol. Some programs also collect clean aluminum foil and pie tins, empty steel aerosol cans, and plastics with the numbers 3-7 within the recycling symbol except Styrofoam. Everything else should be thrown away and that's okay. Remember only plastic containers and bottles with recycling symbols can be recycled. If there is no recycling symbol, throw it out. If in doubt, throw it out!

Still unsure or want to know more? Contact your hauler, municipal recycling coordinator or visit www.chestercountyswa.org for more information.

##30##

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, February 18, 2010

For more information, call 610-273-3771

Nancy Fromnick, County Recycling Coordinator

WHAT DO I DO WITH LEFTOVER PAINT?

Preventing waste in the first place is the best, least expensive method of disposal. Chester County recommends the following disposal options in this order:

- *REDUCE* - Buy only what you need and return unopened cans. If you are at the end of a job and realize you need only a small amount to finish, exchange the unopened gallon can for a quart.
- *REUSE* – Use leftovers for touch-ups, give to a friend or donate to community groups, school and local theater groups, farmers, recreation departments, etc.
- *RECYCLE* – Old latex paints can be blended together to produce beige or gray. Oil based paints may also be mixed together. **DO NOT MIX OIL-BASED WITH LATEX PAINT.** Mix latex paints for use on fences, basements, shed, etc.
- *DISPOSE OF SAFELY* – If no other alternative exists *latex* paint can be solidified and sent to a landfill by following the instructions below. Save oil-based paint for a Household Hazardous Waste Collection day. Call your municipality or 610-273-3771 ext. 228 or visit www.chestercountyswa.org for the scheduled events in Chester County.
 1. Remove top of can, place outside (protected from rain and snow), away from pets and children and allow to harden.
 2. If the can is full, absorb with sawdust, clay-based kitty litter or rags. Stir with a stick until all the paint is absorbed. Larger quantities can be mixed in a box lined with a plastic bag. When the paint is solidified it may be placed in the trash.