

Discard the  
brush or  
roller

If this is your preferred choice,

- let the brush or roller dry completely
- dispose of it as household waste

Left over  
paint

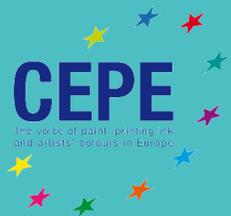
When the paint job has been completed the container with the remaining paint should be airtight closed and there after either:

stored at a place where the temperature is not getting below 0 °C. Remember that over time the paint quality may decline.

Or

offered to your local waste collection point where the left-over paints will be either correctly disposed of as chemical waste or may be forwarded for recycling if a program for this exists.

Never empty left-over paints into drains or water-courses.



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# Guidance on Brush and Roller cleaning

Preventing habits with Waterborne paints that may cause environmental problems



Since more than 20 years, the coatings industry has for a large part moved away from solvent borne coatings to waterborne alternatives for the decorative market. This has led to lower emissions of solvents (Volatile Organic Compounds; VOC's) into the air. Despite using water as the liquid phase these waterborne paints still are chemical mixtures. Hardly emitting any solvents anymore there are other emission routes (like into water) by which paints may create environmental problems.

Paint is used to beautify and protect houses, school buildings, offices, hospitals etc. For paint, just like for other chemicals and their mixtures, European environmental legislation applies. The manufacturers of the products have done their part to comply with the legal obligations, but also the users of the products (the painters) should pay attention to the part that they should take care of. Therefore it is important that paint users treat paint waste in an environmentally responsible way and that they use and maintain their brushes and rollers in a proper way.

## During intervals of a paint job

If a paint job with one colour lasts several days we recommend during the overnight intervals not to clean your brush or roller. A simple containment of the paint loaded brushes or rollers will allow an easy restart of the paint job after the interval. This avoids spillage of paint and cleaning water.

### Treatment of a brush

Wrap the paint containing brush into an air tight plastic bag or aluminum foil. The next day you can continue the paint job immediately. The paint left behind on the foil or plastic bag should be dried completely before this can be discarded as normal household waste. For longer intervals between the painting activities one can use a special storage system where the brush is kept in a gel.

### Treatment of a roller

A paint containing roller which is stored at ambient temperature in an air tight plastic bag, can be kept in good condition for up till a few days. After the non-use period, the roller can be used for continuing the paint application. The paint on the plastic bag should be dried completely before this is discarded as normal household waste.



## Having finished the paint job

### Clean the brush or roller

As you used a waterborne paint the cleaning (which is the removing of the remaining paint) is to be done with water.

- Never do such cleaning by flushing the cleaning water down the sink!
- Rather use a container with warm water (ca. 40 °C)
- Leave the brush or roller inundated for 2 hours. Rollers being bigger in size may need more than one cleaning cycle.
- Take the brush or roller out of the container and roll it dry on an old paper or with an old dry cloth.
- The cleaning water containing the diluted paint is now to be considered as chemical household waste, which should be disposed of via the waste collection center of your local community.
- Alternatively you may wait till the water has evaporated and discard the container with the dried paint as household wastecenter.

When the paint job is done (or a switch to a new colour is to be made) we advise to remove as much product as possible from brushes and rollers into the original paint container before cleaning them.

To create the least burden for the environment it is advised to follow the below instructions for one of the following. Either cleaning or discarding for a future paint job.

