AS A LAST RESORT...
If you must dispose of leftover paint, do not throw it in the Landfill. First determine whether or not it is latex or oil-based.

If it is latex and there is less than 1/2-inch in the can, you can let it air dry and then throw it in with your household waste. (It is illegal to dispose of flowing liquids in the Landfill.)

If there is more than 1/2-inch of latex paint, mix it with some clay-based kitty litter or cement and let it solidify. After it hardens, it can be disposed of with your household trash. Leave the lid off so that it can be easily identified as a solid.

If the label has come off and you are unsure whether it is latex or oil-based, treat it as oil-based.

(See back for more information.)

GIVE AWAY WHAT YOU CAN'T USE
If you have a large amount of leftover paint there may be someone who can use it, such as:

* churches or other organizations
* friends & neighbors.

You can also advertise it on the Mariposa Freecycle website at no cost:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MariposaFreecycle/

KEEP LEFTOVER PAINT FRESH
Leftover paint will stay fresh longer if you hammer the lid with a mallet so there is a tight seal and store it in a cool, dry place away from extreme temperatures. (Be sure it is out of reach of children and pets.) Write the date it was opened, the color, brand, type of paint and the room it is for on the lid.

USE UP LEFTOVERS
You can use up leftover paint on small projects, combine it with other colors to make a larger quantity for use as a base coat, or, if you have an ample amount of a lighter color, take it back to the retailer and have it re-tinted.

PROPERLY DISPOSE OF CANS
If there is a small amount of paint left in the can, use it for touch-ups or small projects, or use it up on a board. Remove the lid from the can and let any remaining paint dry out. Throw the empty can away with your household trash.

PROPERLY DISPOSE OF OIL-BASED (ALKYD) PAINT
Oil-based paints, paint thinners, mineral spirits and solvents are flammable and give off dangerous vapors called volatile organic compounds (VOCs). They are considered a hazardous waste and must be brought to the Mariposa Landfill or the Don Pedro Transfer Station during an HHW collection event. Appointments are required. Events are posted on the website and announced in the local media.

REUSE PAINT THINNER, TURPENTINE, & MINERAL OIL
After using turpentine or brush cleaner, put it in a sealed container and leave it in a cool, safe place away from children and pets until the paint particles have settled to the bottom. Pour the clear liquid into a clean, empty container that has a lid.

Air-dry the paint residue in a well-ventilated area. When it has dried completely, dispose of the container with the lid removed with your household trash.

REMEMBER...
...NEVER POUR WATER USED FOR PAINT CLEAN-UP IN A STORM DRAINAGE DITCH, ON THE GROUND OR IN YOUR GARBAGE.

...NEVER PUT OIL-BASED PAINT PRODUCTS DOWN THE DRAIN.

...DRY LATEX PAINT IN CANS BEFORE DISPOSING OF THEM WITH YOUR HOUSEHOLD TRASH.

...CALL US IF YOU HAVE FURTHER QUESTIONS.

Mariposa County
Department of Public Works
Solid Waste & Recycling Division
www.mariposacounty.org/solidwaste 209-966-5165

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