

DAILY NEWS

Local businesses lend a hand for paint disposal

By **JULIE ZEEB -DN Staff Writer**

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Two local retailers have joined forces with the Red Bluff/Tehama County Landfill Agency in trying to tackle the problem of what to do with leftover paint.

The program isn't going to start for another month, but it will be exciting once it gets started, said Landfill Agency Manager Kristina Miller.

During the time in between, residents can continue to bring paint to the landfill, she said.

We accept latex paint free of charge as long as it has a label that says it is latex and it is a Tehama County resident, not a business, Miller said.

Those with oil-based paints can take them to the Landfill Household Hazardous Waste Facility or the Corning Hazardous Waste Facility, Miller said.

For a schedule of the two facilities, which operate on alternating weekends, Miller said residents should call the landfill at 528-1103.

Hatfield Ace Hardware, 2020 Solano St., in Corning and Los Molinos Ace Hardware, 7930 Highway 99E, have already agreed to take the one-hour training, but Miller said she is always looking for more to join the landfill's efforts.

Training includes how to clean up a paint spill and an explanation of how the program works, she said.

The program is coming from a portion of the \$400,000 California Integrated Waste Management Board Household Hazardous Waste Discretionary Grant Tehama County shares with San Francisco, San

Francisco County and San Joaquin County.

While all money is funneled through San Joaquin County, the grant manager, Tehama County will see \$54,000 coming its way to fund paint recycling. That's more than our yearly budget for paint disposal, Miller said. The landfill spends half of the household hazardous waste budget on disposing paint.

That's \$30,000 annually and that's only 10 percent of excess paint in Tehama County.

If all the excess paint in Tehama County came in to the landfill it would cost about \$300,000 to dispose of, Miller said.

The landfill is advocating the use of recycled paint, which has the same quality as virgin paint and encouraging people to do paint swaps, she said.

The goal of the program, which is funded through 2011, is to move responsibility for excess paint to manufacturers by the time funding ends, Miller said.

It shifts the burden off of local government, which doesn't reap any benefit except a small amount of sales tax from the sale of paint, Miller said. It also gives incentive to manufacturers to teach consumers how much to buy for a project and to produce less toxic paint if they have to take it back.

Flyers and information on figuring out how much paint is needed will be available at the retail locations collecting paint and will be handed out at the landfill's normal outreach venues such as the fair and farmers markets.

Paints of all ages are able to be turned in.

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