



Brussels, April 2022

Guidance on brush and roller cleaning

Decorating the house makes one feel good, but what do you do after the paint job with the brush or roller? Do not dispose residues of paints and varnishes into drains or watercourses. To best protect the environment we encourage people to follow the instructions set out below for cleaning the brush or roller. Or check the [animation video on YouTube](#).

Waterborne paints for cleaner air

Over the past 20 years, the coatings industry has gradually moved away from solvent borne coatings to waterborne alternatives for the decorative market. This has led to lower emissions of solvents (Volatile Organic Compounds; VOCs) into the air.

Although waterborne paints use water as basis, they remain chemical mixtures. Therefore it is important that paint users handle paint in an environmentally responsible way and that they use, keep and dispose of their brushes and rollers in an environmentally sound manner.

Do not clean the brush or roller in the sink

To clean the last fragments of water-based paint, use water. Never do such cleaning by flushing the cleaning water down the sink! This way you rinse paint residues into the environment.

How to clean the brush or roller

To clean the brush or roller after a paint job, follow the next steps:

- > Use a container with warm water (ca. 40 °C)
- > Leave the brush or roller immersed for 2 hours. Rollers are bigger in size and may require 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 to be considered as chemical household waste, which should be disposed of via the waste collection centre of your local community..
- > Alternatively you may wait until the water has evaporated and discard the container with the dried paint as house-hold waste

Leftover paint

When the paint job is done the container with the remaining paint should be closed airtight and either

- > stored at a place where the temperature does not fall below 0 °C or
- > dropped off at the local waste collection point where the left-over paints will be correctly disposed of.

What we request:

- > Consumers of paints to dispose of paints in line with the recommendations hereunder.

What we contribute:

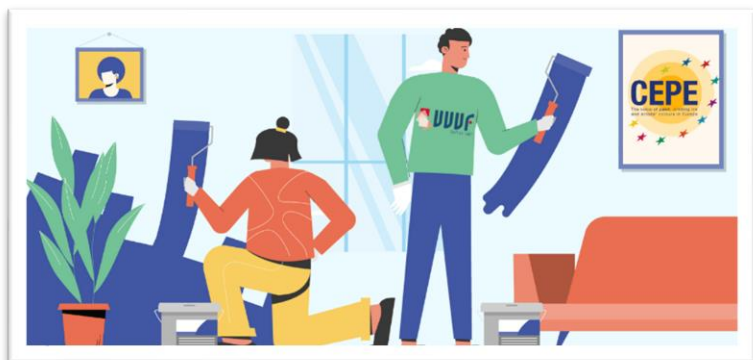
- > Paints contribute to sustainability by extending the life of a produce
- > Decorative paints contribute to the embellishment of interiors and buildings and to the overall well-being of people

Position Paper

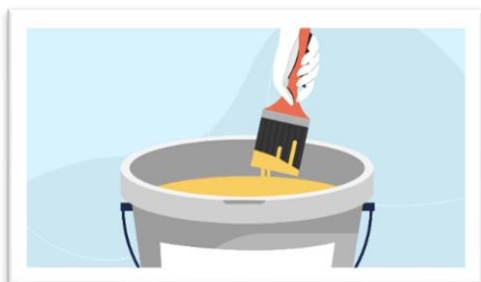


CEPE
The voice of paint, printing ink and artists' colours in Europe

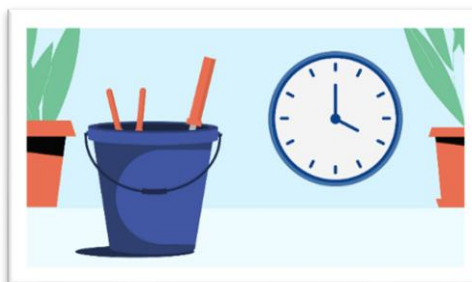
[Check the animation video on YouTube](#)



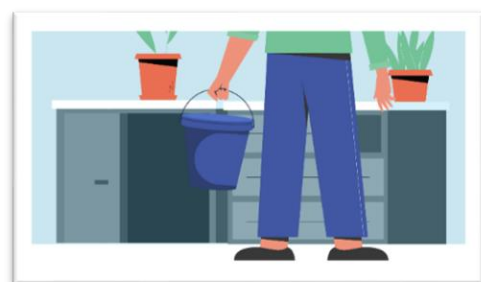
If you want to keep the brush or roller for the next paintjob, follow the steps to clean them



Remove as much paint as possible from the brush or roller.



Let them soak in a bucket of warm water for a couple of hours and then take them out.



You can store the bucket with waste water (closed) for the next time.



Or let the water evaporate ..



.. and hand it in at the waste centre.



Do not dispose of paint residues down the drain!