What’s the difference between a thinner and a solvent? Not much. The thinning capacity of a product refers to its affect on the consistency of the paint or lacquer with which it’s mixed. Solvency refers to the capacity of a substance to break down the resins and binding agents in paint and lacquer. This affects consistency and drying time. The faster a solvent leaves the paint (by evaporating), the faster the resins and binders will act to seal and dry the paint.

Evaporation is the most important factor to consider when choosing your solvent. If it evaporates too quickly, the surface of the paint may wrinkle or a haze may form. If it evaporates too slowly, the paint could seal with the solvent trapped underneath, creating bubbles and blisters.

Disposal of solvents and thinners: Most paint thinners and solvents can be reused. Let used thinner sit in a closed container until the paint particles settle to the bottom and then pour out the clear liquid at the top for reuse. Always label containers with product name and first aid instructions. Add an absorbent, like cat litter, to the remaining residue and let it dry completely.

Contact local refuse collection service, waste management program or environmental control agency for guidance on disposal.
## THINNER AND SOLVENT SELECTION GUIDE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product Name</th>
<th>Paint Thinner</th>
<th>Odorless Mineral Spirits</th>
<th>Mineral Spirits</th>
<th>Lacquer Thinner</th>
<th>Shellac Thinner / Solvent Alcohol</th>
<th>Acetone</th>
<th>Paint &amp; Varnish Remover</th>
<th>Pure Gum Turpentine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Description  | · Economical substitute for turpentine  
· Improves flow, penetration and leveling of paints and varnishes  
· Moderate evaporation rate; ideal for oil-based coatings | · Premium quality, odorless paint thinner  
· Easy to work with indoors  
· Medium evaporation rate | · Versatile, low odor thinner  
· Similar uses to regular Paint Thinner | · Blend of solvents combined to provide fast drying time and high solvency  
· Creates a smooth, high gloss finish  
· Fast evaporation rate due to the combination of solvents, all of which are highly flammable. (Store and handle with care) | · Multi-purpose thinner used primarily for thinning shellac  
· Not suitable for oil-based products or stains  
· Highly flammable; handle with care | · One of the strongest and fastest evaporating of all solvents  
· Not suitable for oil-based paints  
· Highly flammable; handle with care | · Liquid-gel formula that will not run or drip on vertical surfaces  
· Thin enough to penetrate intricate carvings and details  
· Non-flammable mixture that will lift several layers of paint, but will not harm the wood | · Natural source  
· Traditional solvent for oil-based paints  
· Protects natural bristle brushes  
· Its slow evaporation rate creates a gradual drying time for a smooth finish |
| Suggested Uses | · Good for cleaning up after painting  
· For degreasing tools, floors and walls  
· All purpose solvent for thinning oil-based paints | · Best for cleaning brushes and rollers  
· For degreasing automotive and workshop tools  
· Spot-cleaning floors, ceramic tiles and concrete surfaces | · Better for thinning oil-based coatings  
· Use as an all purpose household cleaner  
· Interchangeable with turpentine | · Best for thinning lacquer-based paints to spraying consistency  
· For cleaning and flushing spray equipment  
· Lower priced thinners are usually meant for uses like cleaning tools. Higher priced thinners are specially blended for fine lacquers | · Best for preventing gas line freezing  
· Cleaning glass surfaces  
· Thinning shellac and cleaning brushes | · Thinning fiberglass resin and adhesives  
· Dissolving two-part epoxies  
· Cleaning tools used for epoxies and lacquers. Also for inks, adhesives, contact cement and vinyl-coated boat lines | · Best for removing paint, varnish, lacquer, and polyurethanes on interior or exterior wood  
· For stripping metal and glass surfaces  
· Do not allow contact with synthetic fabrics, plastic, vinyl, rubber or asphalt | · Best for thinning wood stains; when combined with linseed oil, it produces a “French Finish” on fine furniture  
· Thinning special art finishes and artists’ oil-based paints  
· Cleaning brushes and surfaces |

Product Applications:  
1. Household  
2. Automotive  
3. Furniture  
4. Tools
Thinner or solvent – know what to look for

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