



VERMONT AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES APPROVES NEW PAINTCARE FEES

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The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) approved PaintCare's Program Plan for operating a paint stewardship program in the state. This approved plan includes an increase to the current stewardship fees ("PaintCare fees") assessed on the sale of paint in Vermont to fund the collection and recycling of leftover paint. The newly approved PaintCare fees will take effect on August 1, 2016.

The new fees on the sale of architectural paint are as follows:

- \$0.00 – half pint or less (no change)
- \$0.49 – more than a half pint to less than a gallon (previously \$0.35)
- \$0.99 – one gallon (previously \$0.75)
- \$1.99 – more than one gallon up to five gallons (previously \$1.60)

These new fees were requested by PaintCare to cover the cost of operating the state's successful paint stewardship program. During the first year of program operations, PaintCare collected more than 115,000 gallons of leftover paint. This reflects a paint recovery rate (the volume of paint collected divided by the volume sold during the same year) of nearly 10 percent, a higher recovery rate than any other PaintCare state to date. The new PaintCare fee will bring the program out of deficit and sustain it in the future.

We suggest that retailers evaluate their point-of-sale and billing systems to accommodate the fee increase taking effect on August 1. Retailers should also be prepared to see the increased fees on invoices from their paint suppliers.

We also ask that you please discard any PaintCare educational materials you may have in your store that present the "old" fees. These might include brochures, factsheets, in-store posters, brochure holder inserts, and counter mats (i.e., receipt mats). You may continue to use any materials or signage that do not present the old fees.

In the near future, PaintCare will mail to all paint retailers in Vermont updated materials for distribution to their customers, including brochures, in-store poster, sample painting contractor factsheets, and a materials order form. Additional copies of these or other informational materials for your staff and customers can be ordered at any time without cost.

PaintCare thanks all of the paint retailers and other program partners who have contributed to making the state's paint stewardship program such a success – from explaining the program to customers, distributing educational materials, and volunteering to serve as a paint drop-off locations. We look forward to continuing our partnership in the future and advancing the management of leftover paint in Vermont.

If you have any questions about the paint stewardship fees or PaintCare operations in Vermont, please contact the state's program manager, John Hurd, at jhurd@paint.org or (802) 245-4821.

WHERE SHOULD YOUR CUSTOMERS TAKE NON-PAINTCARE PRODUCTS?

The PaintCare acceptable products list covers most of the items that your customers think of as paint, stain or varnish, but what should they do with the stuff that can't go into PaintCare bins?

Vermont has one of the best household hazardous waste (HHW) programs in the Northeast, so no matter where your customers live in the state, there is a HHW collection event or depot near them. The spring and fall seasons are the most common times for one-day collection events held by HHW facilities. There are also several seasonal and year-round depots available where citizens of Vermont can take items that are not accepted by the PaintCare program.



Solid waste management districts or alliances in Vermont make available a list of one-day HHW events on their Web sites; they would also be happy to send you a list of events to post at your store. Most towns that are not part of a solid waste district either have access to a collection event or hold their own.

Feel free to contact PaintCare if you have any questions about where to take non-PaintCare products. We'll gladly help you find a collection site or event near you. HHW facilities can also be found on PaintCare's paintdrop-off site locator tool; most one-day HHW events will appear on the locator a few weeks before they are scheduled to occur.

Businesses that generate very small amounts of hazardous waste (less than 220 pounds per month) can also use the HHW collection events and depots, though they are usually charged fees to cover the waste that they generate. Contact your local district or alliance for details about disposing of business waste in your community.

You can find links to your local waste management district [here](http://dec.vermont.gov/) (<http://dec.vermont.gov/>).

SPOTLIGHT ON COATINGS: DECK COATINGS ARE PAINTCARE PRODUCTS

Properly applying a deck coating is one of the best ways your customers can protect their outdoor decks.

Deck coatings, whether water-based or solvent-based, are PaintCare products. This means that there is a PaintCare fee applied on them at the time of purchase, and that they are accepted for free when taken to a PaintCare drop-off location, such as a paint or hardware store.

Deck coatings help prevent graying, fading, warping and other damage caused by moisture and ultraviolet rays. These types of coatings help seal the surface pores of wood to make them less permeable. Because most decks are horizontal, they tend to hold a lot of standing water or snow. Deck coatings are formulated to protect decks from the stress brought on by moisture.



Both solvent-based and water-based coatings provide a water resistant layer (hydrophobic coating) that penetrates the surface of a deck's boards. Solvent coatings are made with oil-based chemical solutions and deeply saturate the wood to create a more substantial layer of protection. Water-based coatings, by contrast, may not penetrate as deeply; however, they are friendlier to work with and clean up due to being water-based. Soap and water are all that is needed to clean up water-based products, whereas solvent-based coatings require paint thinner or mineral spirits.

Before applying deck coatings, you must thoroughly wash it to ensure proper adhesion. The coating can be applied any number of ways: paintbrushes, rollers, lamb's wool pads or sprayers. A project may require more than one coat, but your best bet is to follow the manufacturer's instructions. Be sure to allow enough time for the coating to cure before walking on the deck. It can take 24 to 48 hours to dry, depending on weather conditions.

Depending on the environment where you live, you might want to re-coat your deck every two to four years. Rain and harsh winter weather will likely warrant more frequent treatments, though you may not have to re-coat as often if your deck has a roof to protect it. The best way to know if you need to re-coat is to pour water on the deck. If the water stands on the surface, you're OK. But if it soaks into the wood, you know you're overdue.

For a complete list of all accepted PaintCare products, visit www.paintcare.org.

CONTACT

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