

## Mistints, Damaged, Spoiled, and Obsolete Paint

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### PaintCare

PaintCare is a nonprofit organization established by the American Coatings Association to implement manufacturer-led paint stewardship programs in states that pass paint stewardship laws. PaintCare currently operates programs in California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Maine, Minnesota, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington, and is developing a program for New York. The main goal of PaintCare is to decrease paint waste and recycle more postconsumer (leftover) paint.

PaintCare's primary effort is to establish convenient drop-off locations for unwanted or leftover paint throughout each state with a paint stewardship law. Funding for each program comes from a fee applied to the price of paint sold in that same state.

### This Program Is for Postconsumer Architectural Paint Only

Architectural paint is defined as interior and exterior architectural coatings sold in containers of 5 gallons or smaller in size. It does not include industrial maintenance, original equipment, or specialty coatings.

Architectural paint includes house paint, stain, sealer, varnish, and a few other products. Please refer to the reverse page of this fact sheet for examples of PaintCare program products and non-PaintCare program products and also read PaintCare's publication titled Definition of PaintCare Products for more details at [www.paintcare.org](http://www.paintcare.org).

*Postconsumer* means paint that was sold. PaintCare drop-off sites and Large Volume Pickup (LVP) service accept paint that was sold and never used. Postconsumer (or leftover) paint can be either unopened, full cans, or opened and partially used, as long as they were sold to a customer and later determined to be unwanted by the customer.



### Unwanted Paint from Paint Retailers Is Not Postconsumer Paint

Paint retailers, distributors, and manufacturers sometimes have unwanted paint themselves. Their paint may be unwanted for a number of reasons:

- Damaged or Spoiled. Paint cans are dented, paint has gone bad (frozen, spoiled, etc.) prior to being presented for sale at the store, or during shipment to the store or to a customer who will be given a refund.
- Obsolete Products. The paint is very old, is a discontinued product line, has been reformulated with a replacement product, or was taken off the shelves for another reason.
- Mistints. The color is not what the customer expected and the customer rejected the paint at the time of purchase, or the paint store staff made an error mixing the paint.

### PaintCare Policy on Accepting Unwanted Paint from Paint Retailers, Distributors, and Manufacturers

Prior to the start of a PaintCare program in any state, unwanted paint from retailers, distributors, and manufacturers was managed by the paint industry in a number of ways. It was returned to the manufacturer or managed through a hazardous waste management or paint recycling company. The start of a PaintCare program did not change this practice for most situations.

### Exception for Mistints

PaintCare has made an exception for mistints. Mistints make up a very small volume of unwanted paint for the program to manage and, depending on the situation, may fit the definition of postconsumer paint.

However, PaintCare encourages retailers to try to sell mistints prior to managing it through a PaintCare drop-off site or the LVP service. Selling it to the public is a higher, better use for the paint than shipping it to be recycled or disposed. It also saves PaintCare the expense of managing the paint.

If the retailer is a PaintCare drop off site, mistints may be placed in PaintCare bins at their store. If the retailer is not a PaintCare drop-off site, mistints may be taken to a PaintCare drop-off site in their area. If they have accumulated 100+ gallons of mistinted paint, they may submit a request to have the paint picked up using PaintCare's LVP Service.

### **What Products Are Covered?**

The products accepted at PaintCare drop-off sites are the same products that have a fee when they are sold. PaintCare products include interior and exterior architectural coatings sold in container sizes of five gallons or less. They do not include aerosol products (spray cans), industrial maintenance (IM), original equipment manufacturer (OEM), or specialty coatings.

#### **PAINTCARE PRODUCTS**

- Interior and exterior architectural paints: latex, acrylic, water-based, alkyd, oil-based, enamel (including textured coatings)
- Deck coatings, floor paints
- Primers, sealers, undercoaters
- Stains
- Shellacs, lacquers, varnishes, urethanes
- Waterproofing concrete/masonry/wood sealers and repellents (not tar or bitumen-based)
- Metal coatings, rust preventatives
- Field and lawn paints

#### **NON-PAINTCARE PRODUCTS**

- Paint thinners, mineral spirits, solvents
- Aerosol paints (spray cans)
- Auto and marine paints
- Art and craft paints
- Caulking compounds, epoxies, glues, adhesives
- Paint additives, colorants, tints, resins
- Wood preservatives (containing pesticides)
- Roof patch and repair
- Asphalt, tar, and bitumen-based products
- 2-component coatings
- Deck cleaners
- Traffic and road marking paints
- Industrial Maintenance (IM) coatings  
Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) (shop application) paints and finishes