

Information for Painting Contractors

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How do paint stewardship laws affect painting contractors?

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.

Paint Drop-Off Sites

The primary requirement of paint stewardship laws is for paint manufacturers to set up paint drop-off sites at retailers and other locations where households and businesses can take postconsumer (leftover) architectural paint, free of charge. Most drop-off sites are paint and hardware stores; others are waste transfer stations, recycling centers, landfills, and household hazardous waste (HHW) facilities. Participation as a drop-off site is voluntary. There are more than 2,000 drop-off sites across all PaintCare programs. To find a drop-off location, visit www.paintcare.org.

Fee and Funding

As required by laws in PaintCare jurisdictions, the program is funded by a fee (known as the PaintCare fee) that must be added by manufacturers to the wholesale price of all architectural paint sold in the state, including paint sold in stores and online. This fee is paid by manufacturers to PaintCare to fund program operations including paint collection and recycling, consumer education, and program administration. Displaying the fee on receipts is optional for retailers; however, PaintCare encourages retailers to show the fee to inform consumers about the program.

The PaintCare fee is based on container size and varies from one program to another:

California, Colorado, Connecticut, Maine, Rhode Island

- \$ 0.00 — Half pint or smaller
- \$ 0.35 — Larger than half pint up to smaller than 1 gallon
- \$ 0.75 — 1 gallon
- \$ 1.60 — Larger than 1 gallon up to 5 gallons

District of Columbia, Oregon, Washington

- \$ 0.00 — Half pint or smaller
- \$ 0.45 — Larger than half pint up to smaller than 1 gallon
- \$ 0.95 — 1 gallon up to 2 gallons
- \$ 1.95 — Larger than 2 gallons up to 5 gallons

Minnesota

- \$ 0.00 — Half pint or smaller
- \$ 0.49 — Larger than half pint up to smaller than 1 gallon
- \$ 0.99 — 1 gallon up to 2 gallons
- \$ 1.99 — Larger than 2 gallons up to 5 gallons

Vermont

- \$ 0.00 — Half pint or smaller
- \$ 0.49 — Larger than half pint up to smaller than 1 gallon
- \$ 0.99 — 1 gallon
- \$ 1.99 — Larger than 1 gallon up to 5 gallons

New York

The fee structure for New York is not yet known. PaintCare will propose a fee structure in the program plan for New York, and it will be based on the anticipated costs to run the program. The fee must be approved by the state oversight agency. Visit www.paintcare.org for updates.

Recommendations for Contractors

Preparing Estimates

When estimating jobs, contractors should take the PaintCare fee into account by checking with suppliers to make sure their quotes for paint products include the fee.

Pass Fee to Customers

PaintCare suggests that painting contractors pass on the fee to customers in order to recoup the fee they pay. Tell customers that quotes include the PaintCare fee and that the fee funds a statewide paint recycling program.

Convenient Paint Drop-Off Sites

With paint drop-off sites conveniently located throughout PaintCare states, anyone can drop off their leftover paint year round. Many contractors report clearing out their storage spaces and no longer stockpiling paint.

Contractors now have an answer for customers who ask what to do with old paint they no longer want; they can recommend that they use PaintCare drop-off sites too.

Most drop-off sites take 5 gallons per customer per trip, though some take more. All retail drop-off sites take paint from businesses, although some transfer stations and household hazardous waste programs only serve households. Always call a drop-off site ahead of visiting to make sure they have space for your volume and to confirm they take paint from businesses.

Pickup Service for Large Volumes

Painting contractors, property managers, and others with at least 100 gallons of leftover paint to recycle may qualify to have their paint picked up by PaintCare for free. To learn more about this service or to request an appointment, visit www.paintcare.org/pickup or call (855) PAINT09.

Business Limits

To use the PaintCare program for oil-based paint, a business must qualify as an exempt generator under federal and any analogous state hazardous waste generator rules. Please visit www.paintcare.org/VSQG for more information on exempt generator rules. If your business does not qualify as an exempt generator, it will not be able to use the program for oil-based paint, but it can still use the program for latex products. (Non-exempt generators will be able to use the program under development in New York. Contact PaintCare for details about the New York program.)

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 containers 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