A convenient new paint recycling program will begin in New York in early 2022 (pending approval). The program is funded by a fee on new paint sales.

Paint Stewardship
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, and Vermont, and is developing programs for New York and Washington.

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 leftover architectural paint, free of charge. PaintCare has established more than 1,800 paint drop-off sites across its programs. While most sites are paint retailers, solid waste facilities including transfer stations, recycling centers, and landfills, as well as household hazardous waste (HHW) facilities, may also volunteer to be paint drop-off sites.

Fee and Funding
As required by the New York’s paint stewardship law, a fee (called the PaintCare fee), will be added by manufacturers to the wholesale price of all architectural paint sold in the state. This fee will fund the collection, transportation, recycling, and proper disposal of architectural paint. It also will pay for education and program administration. Paint retailers and distributors will see this fee on their invoices from paint manufacturers and the law requires retailers and distributors to include the fee on the purchase price of architectural paint sold in New York. While showing the fee on consumer receipts is not mandatory, PaintCare encourages retailers and distributors to do so to provide transparency and to aid in consumer education. Most retailers choose to show the fee on receipts and invoices.

PaintCare Fee
Although the fee structure for New York has not yet been determined, we expect it to be similar to the fee structure in other states with a PaintCare program. The fee is based on container size and vary across the PaintCare programs:

- $0.35 - $0.49: Small containers (pints & quarts)
- $0.75 - $0.99: Mid-size containers (1–2 gallons)
- $1.60 - $1.99: Larger sizes up to 5 gallons

Please note that the fee must be applied to all architectural paint sold both in stores and online.

Limits on Quantities at Drop-Off Sites
Drop-off sites may set their own limits on the quantity of paint they will accept from households and eligible businesses at one time. All sites accept up to 5 gallons of paint, but some PaintCare sites may accept more. The public is advised to contact any site they intend to use before dropping off paint to find out whether the site can accept the amount and type of paint they would like to recycle.

What products are covered?
Architectural paints include most house paints, stains, and clear coatings (e.g., varnish and shellac). For the definition of architectural paint for the purposes of this program or examples of PaintCare and non-PaintCare products, please contact PaintCare or visit www.paintcare.org/products.