California Paint Stewardship Program

Each year about 800 million gallons of architectural paint is sold in the United States. Did you know that about 10 percent goes unused and is available for recycling?

California's paint stewardship law requires the paint manufacturing industry to develop a financially sustainable and environmentally responsible program to manage postconsumer architectural paint.

The program includes education about buying the right amount of paint, tips for using up remaining paint, and setting up convenient recycling locations throughout the state.

Paint manufacturers established PaintCare, a nonprofit organization, to run paint stewardship programs in states with applicable laws.

PaintCare Products

These products have a fee when you buy them and are accepted for free at drop-off sites:

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

Leaking, unlabeled, and empty containers are not accepted at drop-off sites.

Non-PaintCare Products

- Paint thinners, mineral spirits, solvents
- Aerosol paints (spray cans)
- Auto and marine paints
- Art and craft paints
- Caulk, 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

For information about recycling and proper disposal of non-PaintCare products, please contact your garbage hauler, local environmental health agency, household hazardous waste program, or public works department.

CA-BREN-0820

paintcare®

Recycle with PaintCare

CALIFORNIA

Places to Take Leftover Paint

Paint recycling is more convenient with PaintCare. We set up paint drop-off sites throughout the state. To find your nearest drop-off site, use PaintCare's site locator at www.paintcare.org or call our hotline at (855) PAINT09.

How to Recycle

PaintCare sites accept all brands of leftover house paint, stain, and varnish, whether recently used or many years old. Containers must be five gallons or smaller, and some types of paint are not accepted. See back panel for a list of what PaintCare accepts for recycling.

All PaintCare drop-off sites accept up to five gallons of paint per visit. Some sites accept more. Please call sites in advance to make sure they can accept the amount of paint you would like to recycle.

Make sure all containers of paint have lids and original labels, and load them securely in your vehicle. Take them to a drop-off site during their regular business hours. We'll take it from there.

What Happens to the Paint?

PaintCare makes sure that your leftover paint is remixed into recycled paint, used as a fuel, made into other products, or is properly disposed if no other beneficial use for it can be found.

Who Can Use the Program?

Households can bring as much latex or oil-based paint as the site is willing to accept.

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.

Large Volume Pickup

If you have at least 200 gallons of paint to recycle at your business or home, ask about our free pickup service. Please visit paintcare.org or call for more details or to request an appointment.

PaintCare Fee

PaintCare is funded by a fee paid by paint manufacturers for each can of paint they sell in the state. Manufacturers pass the fee to retailers, who then apply it to the price of paint. Stores can choose whether or not to show the fee on their receipts. The fee is based on the size of the container as follows:

$ 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

Not a Deposit

The fee is not a deposit — it is part of the purchase price. The fee is used to fund the costs of running the program, including recycling, public education, staffing, and other expenses.

Contact Us

To learn more or find a drop-off site, please visit www.paintcare.org or call (855) PAINT09.