California’s paint stewardship law supports paint collection activities at solid waste transfer stations, recycling facilities and landfills.

The California paint stewardship law requires paint manufacturers to establish a paint stewardship program in California. Sites that participate can save money on paint management costs and expand services to their customers. Program funding comes from a “PaintCare Fee” applied to each container of architectural paint sold in California. The program started in October 2012.

Paint Stewardship Program in California
PaintCare Inc. is a nonprofit organization established by the American Coatings Association to implement state-mandated paint stewardship programs on behalf of paint manufacturers in states that adopt paint stewardship laws. California was the second state to pass such a law.

Although this program is required by state law, it is designed and operated by the paint manufacturing industry. PaintCare currently operates programs in California, Colorado, Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Maine, Minnesota, Oregon, Rhode Island, and Vermont. PaintCare is currently developing a program for Washington, expected to launch in 2020.

Making Paint Recycling Convenient
PaintCare has established drop-off sites statewide for households and businesses to take leftover architectural paint. Although most drop-off sites are at paint retailers, household hazardous waste facilities, solid waste transfer stations, recycling facilities, and landfills may also volunteer to be PaintCare drop-off sites and have their paint transportation and processing costs covered by PaintCare. Facilities that would like to become a drop-off site can fill out the Interest Form available in the waste facilities section of www.paintcare.org/ca.

Benefits to Drop-Off Sites
♦ Make recycling of leftover paint more convenient for your community
♦ Help your state conserve resources and keep paint out of the solid waste stream

PaintCare Partners Receive
♦ Storage bins for paint
♦ Paint transportation and processing services
♦ Staff training at your site
♦ Program brochures and site signage
♦ Publicity of your site (optional)
♦ Optional: Offer paint in good condition to the public for reuse, and receive a reimbursement based on either volume ($1.60 per gallon) or by container (30 cents per quart container, $1.20 per 1-gallon container, and $6.00 per 5-gallon container). See our factsheet Reuse Programs Compensation and Reporting for details.
Drop-Off Site Responsibilities

- Provide secure storage area for cubic yard boxes or drums
- Accept program products from the public during normal operating hours
- Properly pack program products in collection bins
- Assist with loading and unloading of full and empty storage bins
- Complete minimal paperwork to track outgoing paint shipments
- Ensure staff are trained in PaintCare guidelines and safe operating procedures

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. However, 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 (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

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

Paint is a Resource
An important goal of PaintCare is to conserve resources and increase the amount of paint that is recycled. Through the PaintCare program, all paint including latex will be recycled to the maximum extent possible.