

PAINTCARE FEE INCREASE IN 2027

An increase on the fee assessed on the sale of architectural coatings (e.g., house paint, stain, and varnish) in the California PaintCare program was approved on October 15, 2026 by CalRecycle. **This fee increase will take effect on May 1, 2027.**

Since starting in 2012, the California PaintCare program has processed more than 46 million gallons of leftover paint for recycling or safe disposal. During this time, paint collection volumes have been consistently high, while paint sales have slowed, resulting in the need for a fee increase in California to ensure the program can be sustained into the future.

Following is the new fee schedule for the California paint stewardship program:

	Current Fee	New Fee
Half pint or smaller	\$0.00	\$0.00
Larger than half pint up to smaller than 1 gallon	\$0.30	\$0.45
1–2 gallons	\$0.65	\$0.95
Larger than 2 gallons up to 5 gallons	\$1.50	\$1.95

PASS FEE TO CUSTOMERS

PaintCare suggests that painting contractors pass on the fee to customers in order to recoup the fee they pay to retailers and suppliers. Tell customers that quotes include the PaintCare fee and that the fee funds the statewide recycling program. Customers and contractors can benefit from the program by finding a nearby drop-off

site for leftover program products when finished by visiting www.paintcare.org.

When estimating jobs using program products purchased after the fee increase takes effect, contractors should check with suppliers to make sure their quotes for program products include the increased amounts.

BENEFIT FOR PAINTING CONTRACTORS

Painting contractors and others with leftover program products can drop it off for no additional cost at conveniently located drop-off locations, clearing out their storage spaces and no longer stockpiling program products. Contractors can also recommend to their customers that they can use PaintCare drop-off sites to dispose of leftover program products.

LARGE VOLUME PICKUP SERVICE

Painting contractors, property managers, and others with at least 100 gallons of leftover paint and other eligible program products to recycle can have their products picked up by PaintCare at no charge using PaintCare's large volume pickup service. Visit www.paintcare.org/pickup to learn more about eligibility requirements and to submit a request for a free pickup.

PAINTCARE PRODUCTS

PaintCare sites accept house paint as well as primers, stains, sealers, and clear coatings, such as shellac and varnish. All products must be in their original, labeled containers (no larger than five gallons) and must be covered with a secure lid. Certain products are not accepted. Review the list of accepted products at www.paintcare.org/products.



paintcare.org



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