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

A law passed in June 2014 requires paint manufacturers to establish a paint stewardship program in Colorado. Sites that participate can save money on paint management costs and expand services to their customers.

Paint Stewardship Program in Colorado

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

Making Paint Recycling More Convenient

PaintCare has established drop-off sites statewide for households and businesses to take leftover architectural paint. Although most drop-off sites are paint retailers, household hazardous waste (HHW) facilities, solid waste transfer stations, recycling facilities, and landfills may also volunteer to be PaintCare drop-off sites and have their paint transportation and recycling 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/CO.

Benefits to Drop-Off Sites

- Make recycling of leftover paint more convenient for your community
- Save money on paint generated at your site or managed through load check programs
- Help your state conserve resources and keep paint out of the solid waste stream

PaintCare Partners Receive

- Storage bins for paint
- Free 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 one-gallon container, and $6.00 per five-gallon container). See our fact sheet Reuse Programs Compensation and Reporting for details.
Drop-Off Site Responsibilities

- Provide secure storage area for cubic yard boxes or drums
- Accept PaintCare products from the public during normal operating hours
- Properly pack PaintCare 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

Water-Based (Latex) Paint is a Resource

An important goal of PaintCare is to conserve resources and increase the amount of paint that is recycled. Not all HHW programs accept water-based paint because it is expensive to manage and is not classified as hazardous. Households and businesses are often instructed to let water-based paint dry out and then dispose of the dry paint in the trash. Through the PaintCare program, latex will be recycled to the maximum extent possible.

Will PaintCare Require Operational Changes?

No. Your facility may continue to put restrictions on who can access the paint collection program at your site. If your facility only services a specific geographic region (e.g., specific towns, cities or counties), you will not be required to service customers that live outside of your service area. Similarly, if your facility is not permitted to take business waste, you will not be required to do so. (PaintCare retail sites accept paint from anyone in the state, and from both households and businesses.)

Contact

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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