

Connecticut PaintCare Fee to Increase in 2026

Updated — July 2025



PaintCare submitted to the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) a proposed increase of the PaintCare fee assessed on sales of architectural coatings in Connecticut. The increase was approved by DEEP in July 2025 and will take effect on January 1, 2026.

Background

Since starting in 2013, the Connecticut PaintCare program has processed more than four million gallons of leftover paint for recycling or safe disposal. During this time, paint collection volumes have been consistently high, while paint management costs have increased and paint sales have slowed, resulting in the need for a fee increase in Connecticut to ensure the program can be sustained into the future.

Fee Schedule

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

Container Size	Current Fee	Effective Jan 1, 2026
Half pint or smaller	\$0.00	\$0.00
Larger than half pint up to smaller than 1 gallon	\$0.35	\$0.50
1–2 gallons	\$0.75	\$1.15
Larger than 2 gallons up to 5 gallons	\$1.60	\$2.25

Preparing for the Increase

Before the new fee takes effect on January 1, 2026, retailers are advised to prepare their point-of-sale and billing systems to show the new fee. Retailers should also be prepared to see the increased fee on invoices from their paint suppliers once they take effect.

Retailers should apply the new fee to any paint sold starting January 1, 2026. If you have inventory in stock on which you paid the old (lower) fee that is in effect until December 31, 2025, and sell the product after the fee

changes to the new (higher) fee, you can keep the difference between the old and new PaintCare fee.

Notify Painting Contractors

It is important for painting contractors to be aware of the fee increase as soon as possible. They may provide job quotes months before the increase takes effect and should include the new fee structure in their bids for projects beginning January 1, 2026.

Inform Your Customers

To help inform your customers about the increase in the PaintCare fee, PaintCare has developed leaflets that can be handed out at the paint counter, added to painting contractor invoices, or provided at checkout. Please provide these free informational materials to your customers and mention the fee increase in your customer communications, such as emails and newsletters.

PaintCare also makes available an in-store poster that presents information about the fee increase. Posters can be displayed in the paint aisle or near the paint counter or checkout.

Order Fee Change Leaflets or Posters

You can order additional leaflets or in-store posters for free at any time by calling PaintCare at (855) PAINT09 or sending an e-mail to info@paint.org. Please be sure to include: 1) a contact name, 2) business name, 3) mailing address, and 4) quantity of leaflets and/or posters desired. Electronic copies are also available for download and printing from PaintCare's website at www.paintcare.org/retailers/.

Updated Materials about the PaintCare Program

Before the new fee takes effect, PaintCare will mail updated program brochures, contractor fact sheets, and other point-of-sale (POS) materials to paint retailers that reflect the new fee structure. In the meantime, retailers may continue distributing or using any materials that they currently have.

Contact

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