The District’s paint stewardship law affects painting contractors.

A District of Columbia law passed in 2015 requires manufacturers of paint to set up and operate a paint stewardship program in the District. The program is funded by a fee on architectural paint sold in the District and sets up drop-off sites at retailers and other locations where households and businesses are able to take most leftover paint, free of charge. The program started November 1, 2016.

Paint Stewardship

The American Coatings Association (ACA) worked with various stakeholders interested in the management of postconsumer paint to develop a Paint Stewardship Program in the United States. PaintCare Inc. is a nonprofit organization established by ACA to implement the program on behalf of paint manufacturers in states and jurisdictions that adopt paint stewardship laws. These include California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Maine, Minnesota, Oregon, Rhode Island, and Vermont. PaintCare is currently developing a program for the state of Washington, expected to launch in 2020.

The main goals of the program are to decrease paint waste and recycle more postconsumer paint by setting up convenient drop-off sites in the District and PaintCare states.

Fees and Funding

As required by District law, a paint stewardship assessment (“PaintCare Fee”) must be added by manufacturers to the wholesale price of all architectural paint sold in the District. This fee is paid by manufacturers to PaintCare to fund setting up drop-off sites for leftover, postconsumer paint and for the transportation, recycling, and proper disposal of that paint. The fees also pay for consumer education and program administration.

The fees for the District are based on container size as follows:

- $0.00 — Half pint or smaller
- $0.45 — Larger than half pint up to smaller than 1 gallon
- $0.95 — 1 gallon up to 2 gallons
- $1.95 — Larger than 2 gallons up to 5 gallons

The law also requires that each distributor and retailer include the PaintCare Fee with their sale price of architectural paint sold in the District. Displaying the fee on invoices and receipts is not mandatory for distributors or retailers; however, PaintCare encourages them to show the fee and list it as “PaintCare Fee” to aid in customer and dealer education.

Notice for Painting Contractors

It is expected that contractors pass the fees on to their customers in order to recoup the fees they pay on the product.

When estimating jobs, contractors should take these fees into account by checking with your suppliers to make sure the quotes for paint products include the fees. You should also let your customers know that you include these fees in your quotes.
New Paint Drop-Off Sites
PaintCare establishes paint drop-off sites across the District of Columbia. Participation as a drop-off site is voluntary. Drop-off sites are paint retailers, as well as the District’s household hazardous waste program.

Use of Retail Drop-Off Sites by Businesses
Retail sites provide a convenient and no cost recycling option for painting contractors and other businesses. Businesses that generate less than 220 pounds of hazardous waste* per month are able to use these sites to recycle all program products (both water and oil-based) with some restrictions on quantities per month.

Larger businesses (those that generate more than 220 pounds of hazardous waste per month) are able to use the drop-off sites for their water-based program products only; they are not able to use the sites for oil-based paint or other solvent-based products.

*220 pounds is about 20-30 gallons of paint. When counting how much hazardous waste you generate in a month, oil-based paint counts (because by law it is a hazardous waste), but latex and other water-based paint does not count toward the 220 pound monthly total.

Pick-Up Service for Large Volumes
Businesses with at least 200 gallons of postconsumer paint to recycle may qualify to have their paint picked up by PaintCare at no additional cost. To learn more or to request this service after the program begins, call (855) 724-6809.

Contact
Fred Gabriel
District of Columbia Program Manager
(202) 317-0592
fgabriel@paint.org

What Products Are Covered?
Architectural paints (“PaintCare Products”) are defined as 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