

Information for Paint Purchasers in Maryland

Updated — July 2024



A convenient new paint recycling program will begin in Maryland in 2026. It will be funded by a fee on new paint sales.

PROGRAM START DATE: 2026 (PENDING APPROVAL)

PaintCare

PaintCare is a nonprofit organization established by the American Coatings Association to implement manufacturer-led paint stewardship programs in states that pass paint stewardship laws. PaintCare currently operates programs in California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Maine, Minnesota, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington, and is developing programs for Illinois and Maryland.

Paint Drop-Off Sites

The primary requirement of paint stewardship laws is for paint manufacturers to set up paint drop-off sites at retailers and other locations, where households and businesses can take postconsumer (leftover) architectural paint, free of charge. PaintCare has partnered with more than 2,400 paint drop-off sites across its 11 programs. While most sites are paint retailers, solid waste facilities including transfer stations, recycling centers, landfills, and household hazardous waste (HHW) facilities are also important partners and are encouraged to participate as paint drop-off sites.



PaintCare Fee

As required by the Maryland paint stewardship law, the program will be funded by a fee (known as the PaintCare fee) that must be added by manufacturers to the wholesale price of all architectural paint sold in the state. When the program starts, the fee will be paid by manufacturers to PaintCare to fund program operations, including paint collection and processing, consumer education, and program administration. Displaying the fee on receipts will be optional for retailers; however, PaintCare encourages retailers to show the fee to inform consumers about the program. Most retailers choose to show the fee on receipts and invoices in other states with a PaintCare program.

Although the fee structure for Maryland has not yet been determined, we expect it to be similar to the fee structure in other states with a PaintCare program. The fee is based on container size and varies across the PaintCare programs:

- \$0.30 - \$0.65: Small containers (pints & quarts)
- \$0.65 - \$1.35: Mid-size containers (1–2 gallons)
- \$1.50 - \$2.45: Larger sizes up to 5 gallons

Please note when the program begins the fee must be applied to all architectural paint sold both in stores and online.

Limits on Quantities at Drop-Off Sites

Drop-off sites may set their own limits on the quantity of paint they will accept from households and eligible businesses at one time. All sites accept up to 5 gallons of paint, but some PaintCare sites accept more. The public will be advised to contact any site they intend to use before planning to drop off paint to find out whether the site can accept the amount and type of paint they would like to recycle.

What Products Are Covered?

The products accepted at PaintCare drop-off sites will be the same products that will have a fee when they are sold. PaintCare products include interior and exterior architectural coatings sold in container sizes of five gallons or less. They do not include aerosol coatings, 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
- Primers, sealers, undercoaters
- Stains
- Shellacs, lacquers, varnishes, urethanes
- 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 coatings
- 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