A Minnesota law affecting paint retailers took effect in November 2014.

The new law requires paint retailers to add a stewardship assessment (fee) to architectural paint products and to make sure they are not selling unregistered brands of architectural paint. Retailers may also volunteer to be paint drop-off sites.

This fact sheet explains how a retailer can partner with PaintCare to be a drop-off site for unwanted paint.

Paint Stewardship Program in Minnesota
PaintCare Inc. is a nonprofit organization established by the American Coatings Association to implement this program on behalf of paint manufacturers in PaintCare States (those that adopt paint stewardship laws). PaintCare currently operates 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.

Convenient Paint Recycling
PaintCare’s major effort is to establish paint drop-off sites throughout each PaintCare state — at paint retailers and other locations — in order to provide convenient recycling opportunities for the public. Other locations include solid waste transfer stations and municipal household hazardous waste facilities and events.

PaintCare has established more than 1,700 paint drop-off sites in eight states and the District of Columbia. More than 250 of these sites are in Minnesota.

The program allows households and businesses to return unused architectural paint to drop-off locations throughout each PaintCare State. Although household hazardous waste (HHW) programs in Minnesota may continue to accept paint from households and some businesses, many of these programs are not open year-round and may not be as conveniently located as retail stores. Stores that would like to become a drop-off site can fill out the Interest Form available in the Retailers section of www.paintcare.org/MN.

Benefits to Retailers
There are many benefits to becoming a drop-off site.

- As a participating retailer, you will:
- Make recycling of leftover paint more convenient for your customers
- Support the paint industry’s effort to lead the way in being responsible for end-of-life management of its own products
- Promote your store as environmentally responsible or green
- Increase customer foot traffic and sales
- Help relieve local government of their cost of managing leftover paint
- Do your part to help prevent the improper disposal of paint products
PaintCare Provides
Listing of your store as a drop-off site on website, and in advertisements and promotional materials
- Storage bins
- Transportation and recycling services for the collected paint
- Training materials and staff training at your site
- Spill kits
- Program brochures, signage and customer education materials

Drop-Off Site Responsibilities
- Provide secure storage area for collection bins
- Accept all brands of leftover PaintCare products from the public during operating hours
- Place unopened PaintCare products in collection bins
- Keep storage bins neat and properly packed
- Complete minimal paperwork related to tracking outgoing paint shipments
- Ensure staff are trained in PaintCare program guidelines and operating procedures
- Post “drop-off site” signs in store window and display consumer education materials

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

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