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

A law passed in May 2013 required paint manufacturers to establish a Paint Stewardship Program in Minnesota. Sites that participate can save money on paint management costs and expand services to their customers. Program funding comes from a PaintCare Fee applied to each container of architectural paint sold in Minnesota starting when the program began in November 2014.

Paint Stewardship Program in Minnesota
PaintCare Inc. is a nonprofit organization established by the American Coatings Association to implement paint stewardship programs on behalf of paint manufacturers in states that adopt paint stewardship laws. Minnesota is the fifth state to pass such a law. Although this program is required by state law, it is designed and operated by the paint manufacturing industry. PaintCare currently operates programs 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.

Making Paint Recycling More Convenient
PaintCare will establish drop-off sites statewide for households and businesses to take leftover architectural paint. Most drop-off sites will be at paint retailers; however, household hazardous waste (HHW) programs, 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 paid 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/mn.

Benefits to Solid Waste and Recycling Facilities
◆ 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 transportation and recycling 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 factsheet 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, all paint including latex will be recycled to the maximum extent possible.

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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