Oregon’s paint stewardship law requires paint manufacturers to set up and operate a Paint Stewardship Program in Oregon. Funding for the program comes from a fee applied to the price of architectural paint sold in Oregon. The program started in July 2010.

Paint Stewardship
PaintCare Inc. is a nonprofit organization established by the American Coatings Association to implement state-mandated paint stewardship programs on behalf of paint manufacturers in states that adopt paint stewardship laws. In addition to operating the Oregon program, PaintCare operates programs in California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Maine, Minnesota, Rhode Island, and Vermont. PaintCare is currently developing a program for Washington, expected to launch in 2020.

Convenient Paint Recycling
PaintCare’s primary 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 municipal household hazardous waste facilities and events, solid waste transfer stations, and landfills. There are more than 1,700 PaintCare sites in the United States; more than 165 of them are in Oregon.

Participation as a Drop-Off Site is Voluntary
Retailers who wish to serve as drop-off site are able to do so if they have adequate space for paint storage bins and can provide minimal staff time to accept paint from the public. By doing so, retailers can increase foot traffic and sales and provide an environmental service for their community. They make it convenient for their customers to recycle unused paint and help provide relief to local government programs that currently manage leftover paint. PaintCare provides storage bins, supplies, site training, and pays for paint transportation and recycling. PaintCare also promotes the sites to the local community.

Requirements of Retailers

1. Check Registered Manufacturers and Brands
Retailers may not sell architectural paints in Oregon that are not registered. Paint manufacturers must register their company with PaintCare, and they must register all architectural paint brands they sell in the state. PaintCare publishes lists of registered manufacturers and brands so that retailers can check to see that the products they sell are registered. Please visit www.paintcare.org/lists to see registration lists.

2. Pass on the Fee
State law requires that an assessment or PaintCare Fee is applied by manufacturers to the wholesale price of
architectural paint sold in Oregon. This fee
pays for all aspects of running the program. The fee is
paid by manufacturers to PaintCare and then passed to
their dealers. Retailers should see the PaintCare Fee on
invoices from suppliers. The law also requires that
retailers and distributors apply the fee to the price of
architectural paint they sell. The fees paid by the
customers to the retailers offsets the fees charged to the
retailers by their suppliers. All manufacturers, distributors,
and retailers that sell architectural paint in Oregon must
pay the fee and pass it down to their dealers, ensuring a
level playing field for all parties.

3. Provide Information to Customers
Paint retailers must provide customers with information
regarding the program and paint collection and recycling
opportunities. PaintCare develops these materials,
ensures they meet the state’s requirements, and provides
them free of charge.

What products are covered?
Architectural paints include most house paints, stains, and
clear coatings (e.g., varnish and shellac). For the definition
of architectural paint for the purposes of this program or
examples of PaintCare and non-PaintCare products, please
contact PaintCare or visit our website.

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.

Contact
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COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT FEES

How much are the fees?
Effective October 1, 2018, fees are by 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

How are the fees calculated?
Fees are set to cover the cost of a fully operating program.
PaintCare estimates the annual sales of architectural paint
in each state, and divides the estimated annual expenses
of the program by the estimated number of containers to
be sold, adjusts for container size, and determines a fee
per size that will provide the budget needed to fund the
program.

PaintCare is a nonprofit organization and operates
programs on a state-by-state basis, so the fees may
increase or decrease and be different from state to state.

Is the fee a deposit to be returned to customers?
No, the fee is not a deposit. Fees are used entirely to cover
the expenses of running the program and not given back
as a deposit for the return of paint or empty paint cans — a
common misunderstanding.

Must retailers show the fee on receipts?
No, but most stores do show the fee in order to explain the
price increase. PaintCare encourages retailers to show the
fee and list it as PaintCare Fee to aid in customer
education and provide consistency across the program.

Do retailers return the fee if a product is returned?
Yes, the fee should be returned because it is part of the
purchase price.