Paint Stewardship Programs in the United States
For several years the American Coatings Association (ACA) has worked with stakeholders interested in the management of leftover paint. This work has led to development of an industry-led paint stewardship program for the United States.

PaintCare Inc., a nonprofit organization, was established by ACA to implement this program on behalf of paint manufacturers in each PaintCare State (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.

Beginning June 1, 2014, Rhode Island paint retailers were required to add a fee to the architectural paint products they sell and make sure they are not selling unregistered brands. Providing information about the program or serving as a paint drop-off site is optional.

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 waste transfer stations and municipal household hazardous waste facilities and events. There are more than 1,700 PaintCare sites in eight states and the District of Columbia; more than 30 of these sites are in Rhode Island.

Participation as a Drop-Off Site is Voluntary
Most retailers who wish to serve as drop-off sites are able to do so if they have space and can provide minimal staff time to accept paint from the public. By doing so, retailers increase foot traffic and sales, and they provide an environmentally-beneficial service to their community. They make recycling of leftover paint convenient for their customers and help reduce costs for local governments that manage leftover paint. PaintCare provides storage bins, site training, and support; promotes the sites to the local community; and pays for paint transportation and recycling.

THERE ARE TWO REQUIREMENTS OF RETAILERS
1. Check Registered Manufacturers & Brands
Retailers may not sell architectural paints that are not registered. Under the program, paint manufacturers must register their company with PaintCare and list the brands they sell in Rhode Island. PaintCare and the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management publish lists of registered brands and manufacturers on their websites so that retailers can confirm that the products they sell are registered.
2. Pass on the Assessment Fee
As required by law, a fee must be applied to the wholesale price of architectural paint sold in Rhode Island. 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 will see the PaintCare Fee on invoices. The law also requires that retailers and distributors add the fee to the purchase price of architectural paint. The fee paid by the customer to the retailer offsets the fee charged by the manufacturer or distributor to the retailer. All retailers, distributors, and manufacturers selling architectural paint in the state must pay and pass through the fee, ensuring a level playing field for all parties.

Customer Information
Paint retailers are encouraged to provide customers with information regarding the program. PaintCare develops these materials and provides them free of charge to paint retailers. Before the program started, PaintCare mailed a starter pack of public information materials to all paint retailers. The pack included program brochures, fact sheets, and posters. Additional materials can be ordered at any time, free of charge.

COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT FEES

How much are the fees?
Fees are by container size. In Rhode Island, the fees are:

- $ 0.00 — Half pint or less
- $ 0.35 — More than half pint up to less than 1 gallon
- $ 0.75 — 1 gallon
- $ 1.60 — More than 1 gallon 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.

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

Are stores required to show the fee on receipts?
No, but in other states, 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 increase awareness of the program.

Do retailers return the fee if a product is returned (not for recycling, but returned for some other reason)?
Yes, the fee should be returned because it is part of the purchase price.

Is sales tax applied to the fee itself?
Yes, the fee is part of the purchase price; therefore, sales tax is collected on the fee.

How will the public know about the fee?
PaintCare provides printed materials for retailers to distribute to the public to help explain the purpose of the fee, how the program works, and how to find a paint drop-off site. PaintCare also promotes the program using a variety of methods (e.g., newspaper, radio, and online advertising) and through press releases about the program.

How do I know which products have fees?
Invoices from your suppliers will show fees for program products, so you simply pass on the fees for those items. PaintCare and the Department of Environmental Management will also post lists of registered paint manufacturers and brands on their websites – fees should be included on these products. Please visit www.paintcare.org/lists for lists of registered manufacturers and brands for each state. If your store sells an architectural coating that is not registered with the Program, please let PaintCare know so that we can contact the manufacturer and get them registered with the program.