



## PROPOSED INCREASE ON PAINTCARE FEE & NEW PAINTCARE BIN SHIPPING GUIDELINES

### PROPOSED INCREASE ON PAINTCARE

Earlier this year, PaintCare finished the first year of operations of the Vermont Paint Stewardship Program and collected more than 115,000 gallons of leftover paint. The paint recovery rate – the volume of paint collected, divided by the volume sold during the same year – was nearly 10 percent, a higher rate than any other PaintCare state to date. While this represents a very successful year, and data from the first quarter of the second year indicates a similar rate, the current assessment (“PaintCare Fee”) structure in Vermont is not sufficient to cover the cost of the program.

After carefully reviewing the financial status of the Vermont PaintCare program, the PaintCare Board of Directors concluded that as a result of the large volumes of paint being collected in the state, combined with lower-than-projected sales and corresponding revenue from the assessment, a fee increase is necessary to bring the Vermont program out of deficit and to sustain it in the future.

The proposed fee structure, based on container size, is as follows:

Container Size	Current Fees	Proposed Fees
Half pint or smaller	\$0.00	\$0.00
Larger than half pint to smaller than 1 gallon	\$0.35	\$0.49
1 gallon	\$0.75	\$0.99
Larger than 1 gallon up to 5 gallons	\$1.60	\$1.99

PaintCare presented a formal request for a fee increase to the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. The Agency will conduct a 45-day public comment period on this request and then issue its decision sometime after the comment period has ended. Once approved, the new fee would likely take effect sometime in the first quarter of 2016.

This week PaintCare mailed all paint retailers in Vermont a notice about the proposed increase, as well as informational materials to distribute to customers. Information is also available on the Vermont page of PaintCare’s website and further details about PaintCare Vermont operations can be found in the Vermont 2015 Annual Report.

After the Agency makes its decision about the proposed assessment increase, PaintCare will provide an additional update, including the date that the new fee takes effect.

### NEW BIN SHIPPING GUIDELINES FOR VERMONT RETAIL DROP-OFF SITES

In light of the budget challenges that the Vermont PaintCare program has been experiencing, we are exploring many ways to continue to provide great service and convenience to Vermont residents and businesses with leftover paint, while finding ways to save some money. The largest portion of our budget is spent transporting and disposing of the boxes (or bins) of paint collected at retail locations.

One easy way to reduce the cost per gallon of paint collected is for the hauler to pick up as many boxes of paint at one stop as possible. Many of the retail stores in the Vermont program have two boxes, and they call for a pickup as the first box is getting close to full. The program could save a substantial amount of money over the course of a year if retail drop-off sites called their haulers when they had one-and-a-half to two full boxes, instead of just one full box.

PaintCare realizes that many stores do not have a lot of room for a second box and that no one wants to be caught with two full boxes and have to turn away a customer with paint, but if we can pick up more than one box on a regular basis from more paint drop-off locations, it will make a big difference.



Please let me know if you have any questions about shipments or if your site has room for an additional box. Thank you for all of your hard work, without you this program would not be nearly as successful.

## WINTER IS COMING! WHAT ABOUT FREEZING?

Freezing and thawing latex paint more than a few times will reduce its quality and the ability to recycle it, but you do not need to protect it from freezing. Paint is normally picked up soon enough. Our recyclers are experienced in sorting all of the paint they receive, and they have found that one or two freeze/thaw cycles is not enough to make most paint non-recyclable.

Please contact Vermont's PaintCare Program Manager, John Hurd, by phone or e-mail if you have any questions about the maintenance and storage of paint bins, or if you would like to switch to a different type of bin.

## FURNITURE POLISH: NOT A PAINTCARE PRODUCT

Occasionally, we are asked if furniture polishes, oils, and waxes are covered by PaintCare, so we have written a new notice to clarify that they are not part of the program. These products do not have PaintCare fees applied to them at the time of purchase and are not accepted at PaintCare drop-off locations. These products include – but are not limited to – Danish, linseed, tung, and lemon oil.



Furniture polishes, waxes, and oils are often used to clean and protect wood furniture, not stationary structures, and they are not considered architectural coatings. They are regulated as "consumer products," not by the rules for Architectural and Industrial Maintenance (AIM) coatings which are used to define the paints, stains, and varnishes included in the PaintCare program.

PaintCare issues product notices to clarify which products are covered by the program. To view all notices, please visit our website.

## SPOTLIGHT ON COATINGS: PRIMERS AND UNDERCOATS ARE PAINTCARE PRODUCTS TOO!

When you think about recycling paint, you might conjure up an image of someone removing partially-full cans of latex or oil-based house paint out of their basement and driving them to a paint drop-off location. However, there are other varieties of architectural coatings that are recyclable, including primers and undercoats.



Primers and undercoats are covered by PaintCare. This means that the PaintCare fee is applied to them at the time of purchase and that they are accepted for free when taken to a PaintCare drop-off location.

The terms "primer" and "undercoat" can sometimes get mixed up, but as a rule, you should remember that while an undercoat is always a primer, a primer is not always an undercoat.

All types of primers seal, prevent stains or discoloration from bleeding through, and bond to form a firm foundation for topcoats. Primers can be alkyd or latex-based and have useful applications on interior and exterior surfaces.

Undercoats are a subset of the primer category, and serve to provide a smooth, uniform, and even surface for topcoats. Undercoats come in alkyd or latex formulations, but are also available in lacquer formulations.

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While primers and undercoats are an accepted program product, please remember that they must be in containers that are no larger than five gallons in size, just like other PaintCare products. They must also be in their original containers, and the containers must have a label and secured lid.

For a complete list of all accepted PaintCare products, visit [PaintCare.org](http://PaintCare.org).

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