



PaintCare Fee Increase in 2026

Notice for Painting Contractors and Everyone Who Buys Paint

An increase on the fee assessed on the sale of architectural coatings (e.g., house paint, stain and varnish) in the Washington PaintCare program was approved on July 9, 2025 by the Washington State Department of Ecology. The fee increase is needed to sustain the program. Paint collection volumes have been consistently high, while program costs such as paint transportation and recycling have increased, and paint sales have slowed.

This fee increase will take effect on January 1, 2026.

NEW FEE STRUCTURE

Container Size	Current Fee	New Fee
Half pint or smaller	\$0.00	\$0.00
Larger than half pint up to smaller than 1 gallon	\$0.45	\$0.65
1–2 gallons	\$0.95	\$1.45
Larger than 2 gallons up to 5 gallons	\$1.95	\$2.75

The PaintCare fee is applied to the purchase price of architectural paint as required by law. The fee funds collection, transportation, and processing of unused postconsumer (leftover) architectural paint, public education about proper paint management, and administrative costs.

PASS FEE TO CUSTOMERS

PaintCare suggests that painting contractors pass on the fee to customers in order to recoup the fee they pay to retailers and suppliers. Tell customers that quotes include the PaintCare fee and that the fee funds the statewide paint recycling program. When estimating jobs using paint purchased after the fee increase takes effect, contractors should check with suppliers to make sure their quotes for paint products include the increased amounts.

LEARN MORE



For more information, to find a place to take your unwanted paint for recycling, or to see if you qualify for PaintCare's Large Volume Pickup program, scan the code above, visit paintcare.org, or call (855) PAINT09.

