Washington’s paint stewardship law affects painting contractors and provides new, convenient paint recycling drop-off sites.

**START DATE: OCT. 1, 2020 (PENDING APPROVAL)**

A state law passed in May 2019 requires paint manufacturers to set up and operate a paint stewardship program in Washington. The program is funded by a fee on architectural paint sold in the state. The main goals of the program are to decrease paint waste and to increase paint recycling by setting up convenient drop-off sites where households and businesses are able to take postconsumer (leftover) architectural paint, free of charge.

**Paint Stewardship in Washington**

PaintCare is a nonprofit organization established by the American Coatings Association (ACA) to implement state-mandated paint stewardship programs on behalf of paint manufacturers in states that adopt paint stewardship laws. While the Washington program is required by state law, it is designed and operated by the paint manufacturing industry through PaintCare. Similar programs operate in nine other states (California, Colorado, Connecticut, Oregon, Maine, Minnesota, Rhode Island, and Vermont) and the District of Columbia.

**Fees and Funding**

The paint stewardship law requires manufacturers to add a PaintCare fee to the wholesale price of all architectural paint sold in the state when the program begins. This fee is paid by manufacturers to PaintCare to fund program operations including paint collection and recycling, consumer education, and program administration.

Although fees for Washington have not yet been determined (pending approval by the Washington State Department of Ecology), they are expected to be similar to other states with a PaintCare program. The fees are based on container size and vary across the programs:

- $0.35–$0.49 — Larger than half pint up to smaller than 1 gallon
- $0.75–$0.99 — 1 gallon up to 2 gallons
- $1.60–$1.99 — Larger than 2 gallons up to 5 gallons

The law also requires distributors and retailers to include the PaintCare fee in the sales price of architectural paint sold in the state. Displaying the fee on invoices and receipts is not mandatory; however, PaintCare encourages them to show the fee and list it as “PaintCare fee” to aid in customer and dealer education, and to ensure transparency.

**Bidding a Job? Notify Your Customers Now**

It is expected that contractors will pass the fees on to their customers in order to recoup the fees they pay on the products. Even though the specific fees in Washington are not yet known, contractors should let their customers know that fees will be included in project costs by including a note in their quotes for any projects expected to begin on or after October 1, 2020.
New Paint Drop-Off Sites
PaintCare will establish hundreds of paint drop-off sites for leftover paint across Washington. Most drop-off sites will be at paint stores. Others may include solid waste transfer stations, recycling centers, and government-sponsored household hazardous waste programs. Participation as a drop-off site is voluntary.

Use of Retail Drop-Off Sites by Businesses
Participating retail drop-off sites provide a convenient and no-cost recycling site for painting contractors and other businesses. Businesses that generate less than 220 pounds of hazardous waste* per month will be able to use these sites to recycle all program products (both water and oil-based) with some restrictions on oil-based quantities per month.

Larger businesses (those that generate more than 220 pounds of hazardous waste per month) may use the drop-off sites only for their water-based program products, but not for oil-based paint or other solvent-based products.

*220 pounds is about 20-30 gallons of paint. When counting how much hazardous waste you generate, oil-based paint counts (because by law it is a hazardous waste). Generally speaking, latex and other water-based paint does not count toward the 220 pound monthly total.

Pick-Up Service for Large Volumes
Businesses with at least 200 gallons of postconsumer paint to recycle may qualify to have their paint picked up by PaintCare at no additional cost. To learn more about this service or to request an appointment after the program starts, please visit www.paintcare.org/pickup or call (855) PAINT09.

Contact
Jeremy Jones
West Coast Program Manager
(415) 590-0259
jjones@paint.org

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 program products include interior and exterior architectural coatings sold in containers of 5 gallons or less. They do not include aerosol products (spray cans), industrial maintenance (IM), original equipment manufacturer (OEM), or specialty coatings.

PaintCare Program 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 Program 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