



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

Since starting in 2021, the Washington PaintCare program has processed more than 3.5 million gallons of leftover paint for recycling or safe disposal. During this time, paint collection volumes have been consistently high, while paint management costs have increased and paint sales have slowed, resulting in the need for a fee increase in Washington to ensure the program can be sustained into the future.

Following is the new fee schedule for the Washington paint stewardship program:

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

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. Customers and contractors can benefit from the program by finding a nearby drop-off site for leftover paint when finished by visiting www.paintcare.org.

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.

Benefit for Painting Contractors

Painting contractors and others with leftover paint can drop it off for no additional cost at conveniently located drop-off locations, clearing out their storage spaces and no longer stockpiling paint. Contractors can also recommend to their customers that they can use PaintCare drop-off sites to dispose of leftover paint.

Large Volume Pickup Service

Painting contractors, property managers, and others with at least 100 gallons of leftover paint to recycle can have their paint picked up by PaintCare at no charge using PaintCare's Large Volume Pickup Service. Visit www.paintcare.org/pickup to learn more about eligibility requirements and to submit a request for a free pickup.

PaintCare Products

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. They do not include aerosol coatings, industrial maintenance (IM), original equipment manufacturer (OEM), or specialty coatings. For a complete list of accepted and unaccepted products, visit www.paintcare.org/products.



FOR MORE INFORMATION
paintcare.org | (855) PAINT09