

Information for HHW Programs

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Paint stewardship laws benefit household hazardous waste (HHW) programs.

PaintCare

PaintCare is a nonprofit organization established by the American Coatings Association to implement manufacturer-led paint stewardship programs in states that pass paint stewardship laws. PaintCare currently operates programs in California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Maine, Minnesota, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington, and is developing programs for Illinois and Maryland. The main goal of the programs is to decrease paint waste and recycle more postconsumer (leftover) paint.

Paint Drop-Off Sites

The primary requirement of paint stewardship laws is for paint manufacturers to set up paint drop-off sites at retailers and other locations where households, businesses, and other organizations can take leftover architectural paint free of charge. PaintCare has established more than 2,400 paint drop-off sites across its programs. While most sites are paint and hardware stores, solid waste facilities including transfer stations, recycling centers, and landfills, as well as household hazardous waste collection programs are also important partners and may participate as paint drop-off sites and have their paint transportation and recycling costs paid by PaintCare.



Become a Drop-Off Site

HHW programs that would like their facilities and/or events to become paint drop-off sites can fill out the interest form available at www.paintcare.org/drop-off-site-interest-form/.

Benefits of Partnering with PaintCare

There are many benefits to becoming a paint drop-off site. The cost of transportation and recycling of products accepted by PaintCare (e.g., paint, stain, varnish) will be paid by PaintCare. As a participating drop-off site, you will:

- Save on paint management (supplies, transportation, and recycling) and public outreach
- Help your state conserve resources, keep paint out of the solid waste stream, and prevent the improper disposal of paint in your community
- Make recycling of leftover paint more convenient for your community

Water-Based (Latex) Paint is a Resource

An important goal of PaintCare is to conserve resources and increase the amount of paint that is recycled. In areas where HHW programs do not accept water-based paint, households and businesses are often instructed to let water-based paint dry out and then dispose of the dry paint in the trash. Through the PaintCare program, all paint—including water-based paint—is recycled to the maximum extent possible.

PaintCare Drop-Off Sites Receive Free of Charge

- Staff training at your site
- Reusable paint collection bins
- Paint transportation and processing services
- Site signage
- Compensation for value-added services including paint reuse programs, bulking of oil-based paint, and other optional services
- Publicity of HHW site or event (optional)

Drop-Off Site Responsibilities

- Provide secure storage area for reusable paint collection bins
- Accept all brands of leftover PaintCare products from the public during operating hours
- Place only PaintCare products in bins
- Keep paint collection bins neat and properly packed
- Complete minimal paperwork related to tracking outgoing paint shipments
- Ensure all staff maintain training on PaintCare program guidelines and operating procedures

How do billing and payments work?

- In the most common scenario, when your site ships out PaintCare products, the hauler sends PaintCare an invoice directly. This avoids the need for reimbursement.
- If your site also contracts with PaintCare for value-added services such as paint reuse, your program sends an invoice to PaintCare for reimbursement.

Will PaintCare Require Operational Changes?

- If your program does not currently accept latex paint, PaintCare will not require you to do so. If you wish to start accepting latex, PaintCare will cover the transportation and processing costs.
- If your program does not currently accept paint from businesses, PaintCare will not require you to do so. If you wish to start accepting paint from businesses, PaintCare will cover the transportation and processing costs.
- HHW programs may continue to put restrictions on who can use their programs, e.g., to residents of certain towns or cities. (PaintCare retail drop-off sites accept paint from anyone in the state, and from both households and businesses.)

Our Program Would Like to Partner with PaintCare, What Are Our Next Steps?

- Contact PaintCare to begin contracting discussions as early as possible
- Analyze your current operations so you can describe them in detail to PaintCare to help determine the most appropriate type of contracting approach for your program
- Reach out internally to those who will be involved with the contracting process to understand their needs and time constraints
- Consult with staff involved with paint management operations to ensure they understand how partnership with PaintCare works and to address any questions and concerns with PaintCare staff
- Review the Fact Sheet: Contracting with PaintCare for more details on contract types and other considerations as you prepare. Get a copy by contacting PaintCare or find the fact sheet in the Waste Facilities section of www.paintcare.org.

What Products are Covered?

Architectural paints include most house paints, stains, and clear coatings (e.g., varnish and shellac). For a definition of covered architectural paint (PaintCare products) for the purposes of this program and for examples of PaintCare and non-PaintCare products, please contact PaintCare or visit www.paintcare.org/products.