

# Why We Need a Paint Stewardship Law in Washington State

**Good for Consumers**

**Good for Business**

**Good for the Environment**

**Good for Local Government**

**Problem:** Unused, leftover oil-based and latex paints pose a health risk to our Washington families and the environment. Methods for recycling and disposing of paint in WA are not meeting consumer needs.

- Consumers need a convenient, hassle-free way to recycle or properly dispose of their leftover paint.
- Many paint products contain toxic chemicals that are linked to illnesses including cancer, asthma, and reproductive health issues.
- The cost of managing unwanted paint is burdensome on local governments and ratepayers all over the State. And too many communities have no programs for proper paint recycling and disposal.
- Liquids, including latex and oil-based paints, are prohibited from many residential garbage programs to prevent spills and splashes; toxic paint does not belong in area landfills; and latex paint going to a landfill is a waste of a valuable resource.



*In 2010, costs to local government and their ratepayers for managing unwanted paint were nearly \$3 million dollars. Despite this, 60% of state residents have nowhere to recycle or easily dispose latex paint in their counties.*

*This legislation will provide greater convenience for all Washington consumers.*

*With an estimated 200+ collection sites statewide collecting approximately 947,000 gallons of unwanted paint annually, everybody wins!*

## **What can residents and paint contractors do with their remaining paint?**

**Solution:** Paint stewardship is a common sense approach that solves the puzzle of how to fund a convenient, cost effective reuse and recycling program for leftover paint.

- Ø Consumers will pay a small assessment for interior or exterior house paints built into the price of the paint at the time of purchase.
- Ø Consumers take unwanted leftover paint to one of many collection sites for easy recycling—at no additional cost.



## Supported by the paint industry:

This bill was initiated by the paint industry group American Coatings Association. They support common sense legislation to take back and properly manage the products they produce.

It's good for their bottom line; more collection sites mean more business for participating paint retailers as consumer foot traffic increases.

And painting contractors and other qualifying businesses will have convenient collection sites where they can take their unwanted paint at no additional cost.

As the paint industry continues to create paint stewardship programs across the U.S., Washington can join Oregon, California, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Maine, Minnesota, Colorado and Vermont in legislating a successful and healthy paint recycling program.



*The Paint Stewardship Bill is expected to increase the amount of leftover paint collected in Washington by 87%, creating new opportunities for local businesses to collect, transport, recycle, and dispose of leftover paint.*

## Washington agencies supporting a paint stewardship management approach<sup>1</sup>

*Benton-Franklin Health Dept., City of Auburn, City of Port Angeles, City of Walla Walla, City of Spokane, Solid Waste Dept., City of Vancouver Solid Waste Division, Clallam County, Clark County, Cowlitz County Public Works, Grays Harbor County, Jefferson County, King County Solid Waste Division, Kitsap County Solid Waste Division, Lincoln County Public Works, Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County, Pend Oreille County, Seattle Public Utilities, Snohomish County Solid Waste Division, Whatcom County Executive, Whitman County Solid Waste Department, Yakima County Solid Waste, WA State Department of Ecology*

**The proposed Paint Stewardship Law will ensure safe management of latex and oil-based architectural paints sold in Washington State.**

## For More Information Contact:

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**Northwest Product Stewardship Council**

[www.productstewardship.net](http://www.productstewardship.net)

<sup>1</sup> Product Stewardship Institute, Paint Product Stewardship Initiative Memorandum of Understanding, October, 2007  
[http://productstewardship.net/sites/default/files/Docs/paint2nd\\_paint\\_mou\\_signers.doc](http://productstewardship.net/sites/default/files/Docs/paint2nd_paint_mou_signers.doc)