

EPR IN WASHINGTON STATE

PAINT



WHAT IS PAINTCARE?

PaintCare is a nonprofit organization set up by the paint industry to manage leftover architectural paint in states that pass paint stewardship laws, including Washington, nine other states, and the District of Columbia. The Washington program provides a network of sites where leftover oil-based and latex-based paint is collected to be recycled back into paint, reused, or put to some other beneficial purpose whenever possible. Washington residents, government agencies, and certain businesses, can drop off interior and exterior paint sold in containers of five gallons or less at collection sites across Washington free of cost.

Households and businesses across Washington dispose of hundreds of thousands of gallons of paint each year, which is a messy ordeal and quite expensive for municipalities and haulers to handle. The improper disposal of paint in the trash or down the drain can contaminate our environment with hazardous materials.



In 2022, Washington's PaintCare program managed
864,906 GALLONS OF PAINT

WHAT DOES PAINTCARE DO?

Washington's PaintCare program has made it easier and more convenient for households to recycle leftover paint. Today, there are 251 year-round drop-off sites, many of them paint stores, and 97.2% of Washington residents live within 15 miles of a drop-off site.

PaintCare saves Washington municipalities money by providing paint collection sites for free. The eleven PaintCare programs operating in the U.S. have, saved local governments an average of \$151,905 per year.

WHAT HAS PAINTCARE ACHIEVED?

To date, Washington's PaintCare program has managed 1.3 million gallons of paint with most latex paint being recycled back into paint, helping keep hazardous materials out of Washington landfills.

HOW DOES PAINTCARE WORK?

Washington's Architectural Paint Stewardship Law was passed in 2019 and the program began operation in 2021. The program is run by PaintCare, a nonprofit organization representing paint manufacturers for programs across the U.S. The Washington State Department of Ecology provides program oversight. Latex paint collected in this program is often processed and made into recycled-content paint or directly reused, and a majority of the oil-based paint collected in the program is processed for energy recovery. The program is funded by a consumer facing fee, referred to as the PaintCare fee, which is applied to the purchase of new paint sold in the state. In Washington, the PaintCare fee ranges from \$0.00 for paint containers half a pint or smaller, to \$1.95 for paint containers larger than 2 gallons up to 5 gallons.

In 2022, Washington's PaintCare program:



Recycled 85.7%
of latex paint collected



Conducted 372
large volume pickups

Question about the NWPSC?

info@productstewardship.net

Question about the program?

info@paint.org

Find paint drop-off sites at:

www.paintcare.org

Interested in learning more and supporting these programs in Washington? Join the Northwest Product Stewardship Council (NWPSC). The NWPSC is a coalition of government agencies in Oregon and Washington that work together to develop and improve Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and Product Stewardship policies and programs. The NWPSC has been instrumental in establishing statewide programs such as E-Cycle (electronics recycling), LightRecycle (mercury-containing lights), Safe Medication Return (drug takeback), PaintCare (architectural paint), Solar (PV module takeback), and EPR for Batteries.