



MARYLAND PAINT STEWARDSHIP

House Bill 1 / Senate Bill 325

Did You Know?

Nationwide, 10% of paint purchased goes unused and most latex paint can be recycled.¹

Most Maryland counties have programs to accept and recycle paint, but drop-off locations and times are extremely limited.

- These programs divert unused latex and/or oil-based paint from the landfill or incinerator, saving money and conserving landfill space.
- Paint is the most expensive product for household hazardous waste programs to manage. In 2019, Anne Arundel and Prince George's Counties spent an estimated \$120,000 and \$165,000, respectively, on latex and oil-based paint collection and disposal.



Five Maryland counties don't collect paint for recycling at all,² with most paint disposed of in the trash. When dumped in the trash or down the drain, unused paint can contaminate the environment with volatile organic compounds, fungicides, and (for very old paint) hazardous metals.

Paint Stewardship Programs in ten states and Washington, D.C.,³ have increased collection, reuse, recycling, and proper disposal of architectural paint. These programs are managed by paint manufacturers or nonprofit organizations that represent them, to take responsibility for collecting, reusing, recycling, and disposal of leftover paint. Collectively, they recycle 66% of leftover latex paint and donate 5% to nonprofits like Habitat for Humanity. Twenty-three percent is used as additives and 6% is unusable and is landfilled.

Ask your legislators to support the Maryland Paint Stewardship Program to make paint manufacturers responsible for collecting, reuse, recycling, and disposal of their products!



What This Bill Will Do:

The Paint Stewardship Program works on the principle of Producer Responsibility, in which producers take responsibility for the end-of-life management of their products.

- Manufacturers selling paint in Maryland would have to operate a management system for collection, re-use, recycling, and proper disposal of leftover paint.⁴
- An assessment added to the price per paint container funds the Program.
- Manufacturers or their organization must submit a Plan for approval by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) including:
 - Convenient paint collection and acceptance locations
 - Environmentally responsible paint management
 - Goals for reuse, recycling, and proper disposal
 - An education and outreach plan
 - A budget and paint assessment rate to fund the program
- The Program reports annually to MDE: paint collected by type; its disposition; an independent financial audit; education and outreach activities; achievement of goals.

What are the Program's Benefits?

- Less waste and increased paint recycling in every county
- Convenient drop-off locations for unused paint at retailers and special events
- Cost savings for local governments that no longer have to pay for paint disposal and can avert the cost of landfilling and incineration of leftover paint
- Jobs in the recycling industry to collect, transport, and process the paint
- Increased foot traffic at retail paint drop-off locations
- Increase in donated paint for nonprofits

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¹<https://www.productstewardship.us/page/Paint>

²Dorchester, Frederick, Garrett, Somerset, and Washington Counties.

³California, Colorado, Connecticut, Maine, Minnesota, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington state, and Washington D.C. have ongoing programs. A new program was passed in Illinois and is scheduled to launch in 2025.

⁴Latex and oil-based architectural paint, stains, primers, varnishes, and shellacs, in containers of 5 gallons or less.