



NEW PAINT COLLECTION SITES MAKE RECYCLING EASIER

Ten local businesses become latex paint collection sites in San Joaquin County

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Stockton, Calif. (February 25, 2010) – San Joaquin County residents now have ten more locations to bring leftover latex paint for recycling. The County received a \$400,000 grant from the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) to implement a paint product stewardship program which funds education and outreach efforts to properly manage leftover paint. That program has led to ten local paint retailers partnering with the County to help educate consumers to buy the right amount and to bring leftover paint generated by residents back for recycling. These forward thinking businesses are helping to reduce the amount of paint being sent to San Joaquin’s ratepayer-funded hazardous waste program.

Studies show that consumers tend to over-purchase paint, leading to large volumes of leftover paint that is now managed through local hazardous waste programs. California residents spend more than \$16 million annually to fund recycling and disposal of unwanted paint through taxes and garbage rates. Because paint costs approximately \$8 per gallon to manage, local governments are looking for long-term solutions that will reduce system costs by addressing source reduction first, then reuse, and finally recycling.

“San Joaquin County spends about half of its nearly one million dollar annual household hazardous waste budget on paint. The cost of managing leftover paint far exceeds any other hazardous waste product,” reported Kimbra Andrews, San Joaquin County HHW Program Coordinator. “The County is participating in this project to reduce the cost to residents and encourage the development of a statewide industry-funded and managed paint stewardship program that benefits all Californians.”

San Joaquin County, along with the Counties of Tehama and San Francisco are part of the “Be Paint Wi\$e” partnership. The goal of the partnership is to develop a sustainable, model program that can be implemented statewide as California prepares to transition to a private sector operated and funded paint management system. “We are excited to start this program. It will be good for our customers, good for the community, and good for the environment,” said Sharon Godat, owner of Lockeford True Value.

Paint collection is now available at the following locations in San Joaquin County:

- True Value Hardware in Escalon
- Schemper’s Ace Hardware in Ripon
- Tracy Color Center in Tracy
- Van’s Ace Hardware in Tracy
- Valley Lumber & Supply Co. in Stockton
- Stockton Color Center in Stockton
- Glidden Professional (ICI) in Stockton
- Stockton Ace Hardware in Stockton
- Lodi Color Center in Lodi
- Lockeford True Value in Lockeford

San Joaquin County residents may bring up to five gallons of latex paint to participating retail locations. Leaking or unidentifiable containers, empty paint cans, oil-based paint or other household hazardous wastes will not be accepted at the retail locations. This program is for residential use only; business waste will not be accepted. If the paint is from a non-residential source please call 468-3066 for disposal options.

Heidi Sanborn, Executive Director of the California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC), the primary contractor for the grant project, stated “We couldn’t do this without local business partnerships and we are very grateful to them for working with us.”

CPSC is leading California’s waste management reform by providing outreach and education about Product Stewardship which is a policy approach to place the primary responsibility for end-of-life product

management on producers while recognizing that all entities involved in the product chain share responsibility.

For more information, contact San Joaquin County's HHW Program Coordinator, Kimbra Andrews: 209.468.3066 or CPSC Executive Director Heidi Sanborn: 916.480.9010. Project information will be posted on CPSC's website, www.CalPSC.org

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