

Paint

The Problem

Consumers buy much more paint than they need. The U.S. EPA [estimates](#) that 10% of paint sold becomes waste. It is the single largest waste stream managed by local government household hazardous waste (HHW) programs. In 2008 it cost California [\\$27 million dollars](#) to manage the nearly 2 million gallons of leftover paint that were disposed.

Supporting Paint Stewardship

As a result of five years of hard work led by the California Product Stewardship Council, California became the first state in the nation with a permanent paint stewardship program. CPSC worked closely with the [American Coatings Association](#) to lay the foundation for a producer financed, designed and managed post-consumer paint recovery system. In 2010, the Governor of California approved [AB 1343](#). California's Paint Stewardship Program, [PaintCare](#) now has over 800 [collection sites](#) throughout the state. In [FY2020](#), PaintCare collected over 3.5 million gallons of postconsumer paint and diverted 95% of that from landfill.

[Click Here to Read CPSC's Comment Letter on PaintCare's 5 year Annual Report 12/11/17](#)

Research & Relevant Articles

- [States' Waste Paint Problem Becomes a Solution for Recyclers, Retailers](#) – Waste 360 7/5/18
- [PaintCare California Hits 5-year milestone CA Households and Businesses Recycle Nearly 12 Million Gal](#) – Santa Monica Mirror 10/19/17
- [Paint Stewardship and Counties: Examining product stewardship and paint recycling efforts in California, Minnesota and Oregon](#) – 10/2015
- [AB 1343 Architectural Paint Recovery Act – Adopted 9/28/2010](#)

Links

- [CalRecycle's Paint Webpage](#)
- [PaintCare California Program](#)
- Green Seal Certified Recycled-Content Latex Paint
 - [Acrylatex Coatings & Recycling, Inc.](#)
 - [Amazon Environmental](#)
 - [Visions Paint Recycling, Inc.](#)



HAVE TOO MUCH PAINT?®



Store it

- Save for touch ups — write the room name on the lid to remember where you used it
- Cover the opening of the paint can with plastic wrap and securely seal the lid
- Store it in a location with good ventilation that is out of the reach of children and pets

Donate it

- Give it to neighbors, community groups, theater companies, schools, churches or other organizations
- Check www.Earth911.com or call 1-800-CLEANUP to find options near you
- Call your City or County household hazardous waste (HHW) program for more options

It is illegal to put paint in the garbage or pour it down home or storm drains in California.

Recycle it

- Recycle paint through a local recycling or HHW collection program. Call 1-800-CLEANUP or go to www.Earth911.com to find a location near you.
- Paint cans may be recyclable in your local recycling program if completely empty and dry. Check with your City, County or local waste hauler.

PAINT FORMULA

Use this formula to estimate the number of gallons needed for each coat.

- A. Determine the total surface area (square feet) to be painted.
1. Multiply the length times the height of each wall. Example: 10' tall x 10' wide = 100 square feet. Don't forget the ceiling!
 2. Add together the surface area of each wall.
- B. Choose the coverage rate from this table.

Paint and Surface Characteristics	Coverage (square feet per gallon)
Thick or textured paints applied to rough surfaces (usually exterior: stucco, brick, siding)	100
Paint applied to rough or textured surfaces	200
Heavy coat applied to semi-smooth surfaces (usually interior: walls, doors, trim)	300
Paint applied to smooth surfaces	400
Paint applied to very smooth surfaces	500

- C. Calculate using this formula:
Total Surface Area ÷ Coverage = Number of Gallons needed per coat

PAINTCARE- 5 YEAR MILESTONE

CALIFORNIA STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM
RECYCLES NEARLY 12 MILLION GALLONS OF PAINT

