



Paint Product Stewardship

Reducing waste management costs for local government

Why is a paint product stewardship program needed?

- Leftover paint is the largest-volume and most expensive material collected by county household hazardous waste programs in Minnesota, with annual management costs of between \$5 and \$6 million
- Annually, 10% (1.3 million gallons) of paint sold in Minnesota is left over from projects, with nearly 500,000 gallons going uncollected
- Liquid paint (latex and oil) is prohibited from disposal in landfills:
 - In liquid form, latex paint (which accounts for 73% of collected paint) is banned from landfills. While the smallest quantities of latex paint can be dried out completely and disposed of in household trash, most people have too much leftover paint to dry out in a reasonable amount of time.
 - Oil-based paint (which accounts for 27% of collected paint) is considered a hazardous waste due to its flammability. It is always banned from disposal in landfills.

What are the benefits of a paint product stewardship program?

- A private market program, financed and implemented by industry, would increase the collection of leftover paint in Minnesota, through increased opportunities and education (e.g. using local paint stores)
- Increased reuse and recycling of paint provides economic benefits, in addition to environmental
 - Amazon Environmental (Fridley, MN) produces and sells two products generated from used latex paint: recycled paint made from clean waste paint, and PLP, an alternative raw material used to manufacture cement and made from paint that cannot be directly reused.
 - Oil-based paint is collected and sold in bulk as an alternative fuel for boilers
- The paint industry (American Coatings Association) is able to use its resources to more cost-effectively handle leftover paint than individual local governments, which often have limited budgets and capacity. This provides cost savings to consumers/taxpayers.
- Local governments that participate in the program will significantly reduce their spending on managing paint. They will be required to quantify the financial benefit to taxpayers and report how those savings were used.

How would a paint product stewardship program work?

- The industry has created a private product stewardship organization (PaintCare—www.paintcare.org) to handle its responsibilities in states with paint stewardship laws. A paint stewardship program currently exists in Oregon, and similar programs will soon be active in California and Connecticut.
- The system is funded through a small assessment included in the price of paint, which is collected by PaintCare. State and local governments do not touch the funding for the program.
- Legislation, which is supported by the paint industry, is essential to create the legal framework for the privately-run paint stewardship program, including its financing system.

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