



MARYLAND PAINT STEWARDSHIP

House Bill 127

DID YOU KNOW?

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

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

- These county programs divert unused latex and/or oil-based paint from the landfill or incinerator, saving money and conserving landfill space.
- The savings from diversion are offset by the costs to local government of financing the collection and disposal of unused paint. Estimated annual costs of latex and oil-based paint collection in Anne Arundel and Prince George's Counties are \$120,000 and \$165,000, respectively.



Five Maryland counties don't collect paint for recycling at all,² with most paint disposed of in the trash. This is a missed opportunity to recycle!

Statewide Paint Stewardship Programs in nine states³ 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 goes to the landfill.⁴

Ask your legislators to support the Maryland Paint Stewardship Program to make paint manufacturers responsible for the end-life of their products!



What This Bill Will Do:

The Paint Stewardship Program works on the principle of Extended 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.⁵ They usually participate collectively through a non-profit organization set up for this purpose.⁶
- 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 land filling 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, donated paint for nonprofits

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

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

³ California, Colorado, Connecticut, Maine, Minnesota, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington D.C. have established programs. New York and Washington state recently passed legislation to set up a program.

⁴ Heidi McAuliffe, American Coatings Association, presentation on "Maryland Paint Stewardship Program."

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

⁶ See the PaintCare program, which operates on behalf of paint manufacturers in existing program – www.paintcare.org.