



# MARYLAND PAINT STEWARDSHIP

House Bill 255 / Senate Bill 260

## Did You Know?

**Nationwide, 10% of paint purchased goes unused and most latex paint can be recycled.<sup>1</sup>**

**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,<sup>2</sup> 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.,<sup>3</sup> 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.<sup>4</sup>
- 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
- Increase in donated paint for nonprofits

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

<sup>2</sup>Dorchester, Frederick, Garrett, Somerset, and Washington Counties.

<sup>3</sup>California, Colorado, Connecticut, Maine, Minnesota, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington state and Washington D.C. have ongoing programs.

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