

Save Money, Reduce Waste, and Recycle Unwanted Paint

Support “An Act to Establish A Stewardship Program for Architectural Paint”

LD 1308 creates an industry-run program to increase access to safe paint collection, reuse and recycling, and save Mainers money. It is supported by paint manufacturers and environmental groups alike.



Paint recycling is nearly non-existent in Maine.

- Every year Mainers discard about 300,000 gallons of leftover paint* that often contains dangerous chemicals. This paint ends up in landfills or incinerators.
- Maine citizens currently have little or no access to recycling facilities for leftover paint.

Managing paint is expensive for taxpayers and municipalities.

- Every year, Mainers spend about \$2.4 million in local taxes and fees* to collect used paint and send it to incinerators or landfills.
- About half of municipal household hazardous waste budgets are spent to deal with leftover paint, making it the most expensive item.

Improper disposal of paint is dangerous to Maine’s people and environment.

- Oil-based paint is highly flammable and can expose people to harmful fumes, and much older paint can contain lead, a highly poisonous metal.
- Paint is composed of resins, solvents, pigments and additives that are toxic to aquatic animals if paint ends up in surface waters.
- Maine families are exposed to chemicals called VOCs (volatile organic compounds) when leftover latex paint cans are left open to dry out at home prior to disposal.
- VOCs have short and long-term health effects.

LD 1308’s Product Stewardship solution to paint recycling will reduce the burden on taxpayers, and better protect our environment.

This paint stewardship initiative will create a convenient collection and recycling system for leftover paint generated by households and small businesses. The paint industry would collect and manage the leftover paint.

- Funds raised through paint sales would support the system, shifting costs from taxpayers to consumers, and creating incentives for a more sustainable industry.
- Municipal collection sites will collect more paint and save money.
- Paint retailers can sign up as collection sites to increase traffic to their stores.
- Maine residents and small businesses will have more convenient access to drop-off locations.
- The health of Maine people and our environment will be protected by keeping unwanted paint out of landfills, incinerators, or stockpiled in homes.

Paint recycling through Product Stewardship is a proven solution that is broadly supported.

- This legislation is modeled after successful programs in Oregon and California.
- The paint industry, municipal leaders, environmental interests, and many others support this state-wide program to efficiently and safely capture and manage this waste stream.

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* Calculations from the Product Stewardship Institute • www.productstewardship.us