



GUIDANCE ON BIN STORAGE & ACCEPTING PAINT FROM BUSINESSES

STORING PAINT DROP-OFF BINS

Paint retailers that serve as drop-off sites for leftover, unwanted paint provide a valuable community service and enjoy the promise of increased foot traffic. When stores sign up to be a drop-off site, they receive a storage bin for paint, in-person staff training from the PaintCare state manager, and a binder for future reference and record keeping. Although staff time required for being a drop-off site is minimal, sites need to properly store and maintain paint storage bins at all times.

Storage bins are delivered to drop-off sites by the same hauling company assigned to pick up the bins when they are full. Storage bins kept inside a store must be secured from immediate public access, while outdoor bins need to be secured by a fenced enclosure in accordance with applicable state permits. The fence should be locked when a site is closed for business.

The labels supplied with bins should be affixed to the side, and bins should be positioned so the labels can be easily read. The lids on bins should be kept closed at all times, except when staff are placing paint in them.



If a bin appears damaged upon delivery—or is damaged at any other time—or if labels are not provided with a bin, drop-off sites should contact their assigned hauling company right away.

For specific questions about bin storage and maintenance, please contact Laura Honis, Connecticut and Rhode Island state manager.

WHICH BUSINESSES CAN USE PAINTCARE DROP-OFF SITES

PaintCare drop-off sites may accept paint from businesses, in addition to residents. All PaintCare sites accept at least 5 gallons of paint per visit, but some sites may accept more if they have space. Accepting more than 5 gallons can be especially beneficial to customers who are contractors.

Residents are allowed to drop off as much latex or oil-based paint as a site is willing to accept. Some businesses are treated the same as residents – and they are allowed to drop off as much latex or oil-based paint as a site is willing to accept so long as they do not generate more than 220 pounds (about 20-30 gallons) of hazardous waste per month. These businesses are called CESQGs (or Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators) in state and federal regulations.

Businesses that generate more than 220 pounds of hazardous waste per month are treated differently. Even though these businesses may drop off as much latex paint as the site is willing to accept, they cannot drop off any oil-based program products. (Note: When calculating monthly hazardous waste generation totals, oil-based paint is counted, but latex paint is not counted.) These businesses are called either SQGs (Small Quantity Generators) if they generate between 220 and 2,200 pounds hazardous waste per month or LQGs (Large Quantity Generators) if they generate more than 2,200 pounds per month).

To learn more about the limitations on SQGs and LQGs, please contact the Connecticut and Rhode Island State Manager Laura Honis.



SPOTLIGHT ON COATINGS: TWO-COMPONENT PRODUCTS

Some specialty coatings are known in the paint industry as “2K” or two component (K comes from the German word for component). These coatings are usually epoxy coatings, but some are urethanes. These coatings are not part of the PaintCare program. The PaintCare fee does not apply to them when they are sold, and they are not accepted at paint drop-off sites.

They are always sold in two separate containers. Just prior to use, they are mixed together to start a chemical reaction. Part A is usually the larger part consisting of a resin, and Part B is the smaller part, serving as a catalyst which speeds up the curing of the resin. (Sometimes the Part A and Part B are reversed.) Usually these paints are used when extra-high durability is required or when the surface being painted will be exposed to constant moisture or spills (such as a garage floor). The timeframe in which the mixed components can be applied is relatively short (sometimes called the “pot life”). If the mixed coating is not used, it will harden in the container.

Note that a few coatings are sold with a second container of inert additives to create textures, such as sand which can prevent slipping in a floor paint. These types of coatings, even though they are also packaged in separate containers, are not excluded; they are part of the PaintCare program and are accepted at drop off sites.

For a complete list of PaintCare products accepted at drop-off sites, visit our website (www.paintcare.org/products-we-accept)

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