# Saskatchewan Paint Stewardship Program

Leftover paint and paint products are considered "household hazardous waste" and they make up 75 per cent of the household hazardous waste in Saskatchewan. If waste paint is not disposed of properly it can have a negative impact on the environment. For example, chemicals from paint discarded at a landfill can accumulate and leach into the surrounding soil and groundwater.

### *History*

The Saskatchewan Paint Stewardship Program was established in 2006 by paint manufacturers and retailers to provide consumers with a safe and convenient way to dispose of unwanted paint and paint products, in response to the recycling and public education requirements of The Waste Paint Management Regulations developed by the Ministry of Environment. The program is managed by a non-profit organization called Product Care.

The program is led by an industry stewardship advisory board, with representation from retailers, distributors, manufacturers, municipalities and the Ministry of Environment. It is the only product management program for paint and paint-related products that has been approved by the Saskatchewan government.

### *How to Recycle*

To dispose of waste paint and paint products, you can simply drop off your leftover and unwanted paint and paint aerosols at any of SARCAN's 71 depots. There is no charge. To locate a SARCAN depot, refer to their website at www.sarcsarcan.ca.

Acceptable paint material includes:

- Interior & exterior latex, acrylic, water-based, alkyd, enamel & oil-based paint
- Varnishes & urethanes (single component)
- Stains
- Desk & floor paints (including elastomeric)
- Undercoats
- Stain-blocking paints
- Wood-finishing oils & stains
- Stucco paints
- Wood & masonry water repellants
- Non-catalyzed & non-nitrocellulose lacquers
- Concrete paints
- Primers
- Driveway (non-tar based) paints & sealers
- Shellac
- Rust paint
- Paints for metal
- Marine paint (containing no pesticides)
- All types of paint aerosols up to 660g (24 oz.)

For a complete list of materials accepted by the program and for other information, please visit www.productcare.org.

**Note: The maximum container size that SARCAN will accept is 23 litres (5 gallons).**
**Solvents are not part of the program and will not be accepted.**

For safety reasons, consumers are asked to:

- use only original containers, when possible;
- tightly seal all containers;
- not return paint in glass containers; and
- not mix different types of paint products together.

The Ministry of Environment encourages people to reduce and/or reuse paint before recycling. For example, buy the appropriate quantity of paint, store it properly and consider donating or exchanging it before recycling.

### *How the Program Works*

Consumers pay an Eco Fee on paint sold in Saskatchewan. The retailer remits the fees to Product Care. The money is used to help pay for collecting, transporting and processing the waste paint and paint products.

The fees that customers pay are:

| Volume of Container | Cost |
|---|---|
| **100 ml to 250 ml** | $ 0.10 |
| **251 ml to 1 litre** | $ 0.25 |
| **1.01 litres to 5 litres** | $ 0.40 |
| **5.01 litres to 23 litres** | $ 1.00 |
| **Aerosol Paint (all sizes)** | $ 0.10 |

A detailed listing of the paint Eco Fees can be found at: www.productcare.org

Paint received at a SARCAN depot is checked for quality. Good quality paint is repackaged made available to the public and non-profit groups, free of charge. Lower quality paint is used as an additive in the manufacturing of cement. Oil-based paint can be used as an alternative fuel source. All empty metal paint cans are sent to IPSCO, where they are melted down and used in steel manufacturing. Plastic containers are shredded and reused for other plastic items.

### *Accomplishments*

In 2007 – just the second year of the Saskatchewan Paint Stewardship Program – over 200,000 litres of unwanted paint was handed in. This includes 33,000 litres of paint collected and reused through the "Paint Exchange" program.

In addition, 72.5 tonnes of metal paint cans and 3.1 tonnes of plastic containers were sent for recycling.

### *Interesting Facts*

Paint is a durable product. If stored properly, oil and latex paints can remain useable up to 15 years.

Paint Wisely! When using paint for projects in and around your home, it is always best to buy and use the right amount. Buy only what you need and save money and cut down on the amount of leftover paint that needs to be stored, reused or disposed of.

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**For more information about Paint Recycling,**
**visit www.productcare.org or call 1-888-772-9772.**