

Recycled Paint

Responsible Purchasing Attributes

- Air quality
- Climate change
- Energy efficiency
- Product miles
- Recyclability
- Recycled content
- Renewable resources
- Toxic chemical reduction

Benefits of Purchasing

- Creates markets for products made from leftover paint.
- Reduce demands on natural resources.

How to Buy

Recycled paint is available on Washington State Enterprise Contract [00207](#).

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Goal: To procure and use 100 percent post-consumer recycled paint.

Each year an estimated 64 million gallons of leftover paint are sent to landfills nationally. A minimum of 695,000 gallons is estimated to be wasted in Washington State. Approximately 70 percent is latex paint. Sending large quantities of usable product to landfills is a waste of our natural resources.

Purchasing recycled paint helps create the market demand necessary to support the collection infrastructure for managing leftover paint.

Portland Metro is the new vendor on Washington State Contract 00207. Sales of recycled paint on this contract cannot exceed the amount of waste paint that is sent to Oregon for recycling. This prevents Oregon's waste paint from entering the state – closing the loop for paint in Washington.

Standards

The [Green Seal Standard for Recycled Paint \(GS-43\)](#) certifies that recycled paint is safe for human and environmental health and meets Master Painters Institute's requirements for quality paint performance. Under the GS-43 standard, recycled paint must meet the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA), standards of less than 250 grams per liter of volatile organic compound VOC emissions.

The GS-43 standard also certifies that appropriate sorting procedures were used. Manufacturers must test every batch for pH, viscosity, fineness of grind, and gloss.

Building projects can earn U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification credits for recycled content and locally procured materials.

Leading the Way – Portland Oregon

The Portland Metro Government ([Portland Metro](#)) has been collecting surplus latex paint from households and businesses since 1992 and has sold over 650,000 gallons to 44,000 customers.

Portland Metro paint is the first recycled paint in the country to receive the GS-43 certification.



Photo credit: Don Paulson

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing

The Department of Ecology offers tools and resources to make environmentally preferable purchasing easier.

Find out about environmentally preferable products, standards and certifications, law and directives, and more at our website:

www.ecy.wa.gov/beyondwaste/epp.html

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Resources

[California Integrated Waste Management Board \(CIWMB\)](#)

[Earth 911](#)

[Master Painters Institute \(MPI\)](#)

[National Paint and Coatings Association \(NPCA\)](#)

[Product Stewardship Institute \(PSI\)](#)

[U.S. Green Building Council \(USGBC\)](#)

Product Performance

Recycled paint on the Washington State contract must meet rigorous standards for environmental safety and the same performance standards as new paint. This paint may be used on interiors or exteriors.

There are two types of recycled paint:

- **Consolidated paint** is a blend of 95 percent leftover paint having a variety of sheens. The result is a durable paint with an eggshell finish that can be scrubbed with a damp cloth without damaging the surface.
- **Reprocessed paint** has new paint added, generally to formulate lighter paint colors. It can have a flat or semi-gloss sheen depending on how it is processed.



End of Life

Buying the correct amount of paint reduces waste at the end of a paint project. Before buying paint, measure the square footage of the surface to be painted and calculate the amount of paint needed for the job.

If paint is left over, consider the following options to keep paint from going to the landfills:

- Store properly and use it later.
- Find someone else that can use it.
- Take it back to the manufacturer.
- Call your local solid waste agency or environmental health department for their recommendations for leftover paint management.



Photo credit: Portland Metro

Laws and Directives

<p>Executive Order 02-03:</p>	<p>Requires sustainable practices by state agencies. This includes practices that do not sacrifice the needs of future generations.</p>
<p>RCW 43.19A</p>	<p>Directs state agencies to develop strategies to increase recycled product purchases.</p>

To ask about available formats for the visually impaired please call the Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program at 360-407-6700. Persons with hearing loss can call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability can call 877-833-6341.