

SASKATCHEWAN WASTE PAINT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Submitted to:

Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment
Waste Stewardship and Recycling.

Product Care Association of Canada

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1. INTRODUCTION

The [Saskatchewan Waste Paint Management Program Plan](#) ("Program") is operated and managed by Product Care Association of Canada ("Product Care"). Product Care is a federally incorporated, not-for-profit product stewardship association formed in response to stewardship regulations and is governed by a multi-sector industry board of directors.

This annual report is prepared in accordance with the requirements outlined in [The Waste Paint Management Regulations Chapter E – 10.21 Reg 3](#) ("Regulation") issued under [The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2010](#), and the commitments set out in the Program, approved by the Saskatchewan Minister of Environment on May 7, 2005. This report provides information for the period covering January 1 – December 31, 2025.

Product Care operates product stewardship programs for paint in seven other Canadian provinces: British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland & Labrador. Product Care also operates programs for household hazardous wastes in British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and Saskatchewan; lamps in British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and PEI; and alarms in British Columbia. See the Product Care website at www.productcare.org for more information.

2. PROGRAM SUMMARY

As stated in section 2(c) of the Regulation, the Program accepts the following categories of products ("Program Products"):

- Any latex, oil or oil-based architectural coating;
- Any architectural stain, varnish, lacquer or other wood or masonry treatment product; and
- Any type of paint sold in a pressurized aerosol container.

The Program provides collection services across the province, allowing consumers to return leftover Program Products. The Program also operates the PaintShare Program, which makes higher-quality paint collected at SARCAN depots available to the public at no cost for reuse. Product Care manages the collection and shipment of collected paint to a processor for recycling and end-of-life management. Additional program elements managed by Product Care include revenue management, communications, and administration.

3. COLLECTION SYSTEM

Product Care does not directly own or manage any collection sites but rather contracts with SARCAN Recycling to provide collection services for leftover paint at its 73 depots across Saskatchewan. Product Care also contracts and partners with 14 retail locations and 7 regional waste management facilities throughout the province to provide additional collection services.

Consumers can drop off leftover paint at no charge at all collection sites throughout the province. Several SARCAN locations are also designated to accept large volumes of paint. Product Care also provides free pickup from very large generators of leftover paint and paint containers.

In addition to the established collection network, Product Care participated in 51 one-day collection events around the province in 2025, in partnership with municipalities and organizations as part of their Household Hazardous Waste Day events.

4. PROGRAM PRODUCTS COLLECTED

4.1. TUBSKIDS COLLECTED

The Program utilizes tubskids (approximately 4'x4'x3' plastic boxes) for the collection and transportation of leftover paint. Table 1 provides the number of tubskids collected in 2025.

Table 1: Tubskids Collected in 2025

	Tubskids Collected
Paint	2137
Aerosol	119
Total	2256¹

4.2. RESIDUAL VOLUMES COLLECTED

Residual volume refers to the volume of paint collected, including volumes reused through the PaintShare Program. Table 2 provides the estimated residual volumes of paint collected in 2025.

Table 2: Estimated Residual Volumes of Paint Collected in 2025

	Volume ^{2,3} (L)
Water-based paint	263,427
Oil-based paint	102,091
Total Collected	365,518

4.3. RECOVERY RATE

Recovery rate compares the volume of products collected by the Program during the year with the volume of products sold over the same period. In the context of Program Products, using recovery rate as an indicator of program performance should be treated with caution, as it is not necessarily an accurate measure of success for the following reasons:

- Paint is designed to be consumed. Therefore, it is arguably the case that a low recovery rate could indicate strong program performance, suggesting consumers are efficient with the use of the products they purchase. Additionally, Product Care actively promotes waste reduction through campaigns that highlight the BUD rule: “Buy what you need, Use what you buy, and Dispose of leftovers safely.” This rule aims to reduce waste generation, which further lowers the recovery rate.
- The relationship between volumes of Program Products purchased and recycled is not linear. Program Products have a long shelf life, and the leftover product may be stored by the consumer for long periods of time with the intention of later use. The time span between the purchase of a product and the decision by a consumer that it is no longer needed varies considerably and is heavily dependent on consumer habits.

Table 3 sets out the volume of paint sold, paint collected and recovery rate for 2025.

¹ In some cases, we collected partial tubskids (i.e. at events) and drums, which were converted to full tubskids, therefore the numbers may not add up due to rounding.

² Residual volume collected is estimated using rounded conversion rates of 85.2 litres/tubskid of water-based paint, 42.7 litres/tubskids of oil-based paint, and 45.4 litres/tubskid for aerosol paint based on aerosol can counts and historical volumes of aerosols.

³ Includes PaintShare volume as reported in Section 5.1.

Table 3: Recovery Rate for 2025

	Volume (L)
Sales	5,357,344
Total Collected (Water-based and Oil based)	365,518
Recovery Rate	6.8%

5. PRODUCT MANAGEMENT

The Program employs several methods for managing recovered paint including reuse, recycling (both paint and containers), energy recovery, landfill, and incineration. These approaches are described in greater detail below.

Product Care continues to manage material in accordance with the Pollution Prevention Hierarchy, prioritizing recycling and other beneficial uses wherever feasible. Low-grade water-based paint that is not suitable for recycling is managed through approved alternative end uses, including its use as a raw material substitute in cement manufacturing. Product Care will continue to monitor and optimize management options for this material and, where necessary, utilize other responsible management alternatives, such as energy recovery or disposal, to ensure environmentally sound stewardship.

5.1. REUSE (PAINTSHARE INITIATIVE)

Through the Program's PaintShare Initiative, higher quality leftover paint dropped off at SARCAN Recycling locations is made available for consumers to pick up and use free of charge. The PaintShare Program is offered in all 73 SARCAN Recycling depots. In 2025, approximately 86,729 litres of paint collected by the Program was reused by members of the public through the PaintShare initiative. This consisted of approximately 81,341 litres of water-based paint and 5,388 litres of oil-based paint. Volumes are estimated based on the assumption that the average paint container is 75% full. Aerosol paint is not included in the PaintShare initiative. Approximately 24% of collected paint volumes were diverted to the PaintShare program in 2025.

5.2. RECYCLING

In 2025, 110,628 litres of water-based paint were processed by the Program into new paint. Additionally, 61,842 litres of lower-grade water-based paint were put into temporary storage, intended for recycling as a raw material additive in cement manufacturing. In past years, lower-grade recyclable paint (i.e., paint not suitable for paint-to-paint recycling) has been recycled in this manner.

Low-grade water-based paint that does not meet recycling specifications is used as a raw material substitute in cement manufacturing, providing a beneficial end use for this material. Due to production and operational challenges at the cement plant, processing capacity was reduced, resulting in some lower-grade water-based paint being temporarily stored pending the resumption of normal operations. Despite these challenges, a portion of the material that had been stored between 2021 and 2023 was successfully processed into cement during 2025. Processing of the remaining stored material is expected to continue in 2026.

5.3. ENERGY RECOVERY

Oil-based paints were sent for energy recovery, an environmentally responsible option that captures the product's high energy value and puts it to beneficial use as an alternative fuel in permitted industrial applications.

Energy recovery provides a practical and sustainable management solution for these materials, ensuring that their energy content is recovered and utilized rather than disposed of as waste.

In 2025, 95,777 litres of oil-based (alkyd) paint and paint from aerosol containers were blended with other fuels and utilized as an alternative energy source in licensed waste-to-energy applications.

5.4. INCINERATION

In 2025, 410 litres of oil-based paint exhibiting PCB contamination were incinerated at a permitted incinerator.

5.5. LANDFILL

The Program recovered 8,678 litres of water-based paint that could not be reused or recycled in cement processing application. This paint was solidified and sent to a permitted landfill.

5.6. CONTAINER RECYCLING

In 2025, 111.7 tonnes of metal from metal paint cans and aerosols were sent to scrap metal dealers for recycling. In addition, 20.1 tonnes of plastic paint containers were sent to plastics brokers for recycling.

5.7. SUMMARY OF VOLUMES PROCESSED BY PROCESSING METHOD

Table 4 summarizes the various processing methods employed to manage Program Products and the volumes processed in 2025, as reported by the processors. Processed volumes may not align exactly with collected volumes. Some materials processed in 2025 were received in the previous year and not all material received in the current year will be processed in the same year.

Table 4: Material Processing Methods and Volumes Processed

Material Processing Method	Total (L)
Reuse (PaintShare Initiative)	86,729
Water-based (latex) Paint	81,341
Oil-based (alkyd) Paint	5,388
Recycling	110,628
Temporary Storage	61,842
Energy Recovery	95,777
Incineration	410
Landfill	8,678
Total Litres Processed	364,064
Metal containers recycled	111.7 MT
Plastic containers recycled	20.1 MT
Total tonnes of containers recycled	131.8 MT

6. PUBLIC EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

Consumer participation is essential to the success of the Program. Promotion and education activities are therefore implemented to ensure consumers:

- Are aware that the paint can be recycled or responsibly managed; and
- Know the steps/process for how to recycle or ensure proper end-of-life management for paint.

In 2025, Product Care Recycling implemented a range of promotion and education activities as part of our communication plan to meet these objectives.

- Product Care distributed informational materials to a variety of stakeholders, including rural communities seeking recycling education resources and attended multiple conferences/tradeshows to provide information on program scope and operations.
- Product Care presented at the SALT Solid Waste Management Gathering, providing an overview of its programs, including their objectives, operations, and environmental outcomes.
- Product Care is developing a children's activity booklet to promote recycling options, the 4R's, which will be readily available via Product Care's website for schools, campaigns and educational uses for all residents.

6.1. STRATEGY

Consumers of the Program's products are diverse; they range across demographics and vary in their purchase, use, and disposal behaviour. Recognizing these nuances and that different segments of our audience will access information in different ways and at different times, we utilize a multi-channel approach for communication activities. This comprehensive strategy ensures broad market coverage, giving consumers a variety of ways to receive and access information about the Program.

6.2. COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

6.2.1. WEBSITE

Product Care owns and manages productcare.org to serve as a Program information hub. The site is consumer-facing and has been designed to meet their specific needs. Website content includes:

Recycling locator:

Interactive map displaying the locations of all paint collection sites within the province.

Program information:

- Listing of accepted and non-accepted products, along with tips for drop-off
- Environmental Handling Fees
- Information on large volumes service

Product information:

- Dedicated page for PaintShare Program, educating consumers on the opportunities to access free paint
- Topical content related to environmental issues and material management
- Videos describing the material management process

6.2.2. PRINTED ASSETS - POINTS OF SALE (POS) AND POINT OF RETURN (POR)

The optimal time to educate a consumer that a product is recyclable or responsibly managed is at the time of purchase. Similarly, informing consumers who regularly recycle, that Program products can also be recycled and responsibly managed is equally valuable, as these consumers are already demonstrating an interest in recycling. For these reasons, Product Care has a suite of printed educational materials that are available at no cost to retailers and collection sites. Materials can be ordered online at productcare.org/materials.

6.2.3. MULTI-CHANNEL ADVERTISING

The Program used a mix of digital and traditional media to promote paint recycling and inform residents about available collection services in the province (see Appendix B). Advertising directed consumers to Program information and the online recycling locator, helping residents find nearby collection sites. Advertising was delivered through the following channels:

DIGITAL ADVERTISING

- **Google Search** advertising targeted users based on relevant keywords and search terms, ensuring that consumers actively looking for paint disposal or recycling information were directed to the Program website and recycling locator.
- **Google Display** advertising delivered banner and video ads across websites and mobile applications, using targeting based on users' browsing behaviour and the content they engage with to reach audiences likely to use paint and generate paint waste.
- **Social media** platforms, including YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and LinkedIn, were used to reach audiences online. Targeting was applied more broadly based on users' interests and behaviours to reach individuals likely to use paint products and build overall Program awareness.

STREAMING CHANNELS

- **Spotify** was used to deliver video advertisements to audiences engaging with online streaming content.
- Broadcast media **Linear TV** advertisements (Global & CBC) supported our multi-channel strategy by reaching those not actively engaged online, providing a tangible brand presence for the Program.

6.2.4. PROGRAM HOTLINE

Product Care continued to operate a toll-free "hotline" where consumers obtained information about the Program.

6.3. PROGRAM AWARENESS

Product Care coordinates consumer awareness surveys to validate the impact of our promotion and education activities. A reputable third party conducts the surveys every two years, in conjunction with other provincial stewardship Product Care operates.

The 2024 survey found that 86% of Saskatchewan respondents who purchased paint are aware it can be recycled in the province. The next survey is scheduled for 2026.

The Program's advisory committee met virtually October 14th 2025 to review the Paint and HHW Programs.

7. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

A summary of the Program's financials for 2025 is provided.

Table 6. The financials detail the total amount of environmental handling fees collected to fund the Program and the Program expenditures.

The Program is funded by environmental handling fees (EHFs) paid by Product Care's members on the sale of each unit of Program Product into the Province. The Program's EHF's for each product category are set out in Table 5.

To ensure fairness and revenue completeness, Product Care conducts periodic reviews of each member to ensure correct EHF's are being remitted, based on sales in or into Saskatchewan.

Table 5: Current Environmental Handling Fees

Container Size	Current Fee
100 ml to 250 ml	\$0.20
251 ml to 1 litre	\$0.35
1.01 litres to 5 litres	\$0.75
5.01 Litres to 23 litres	\$1.95
Aerosol Paint (any size)	\$0.25

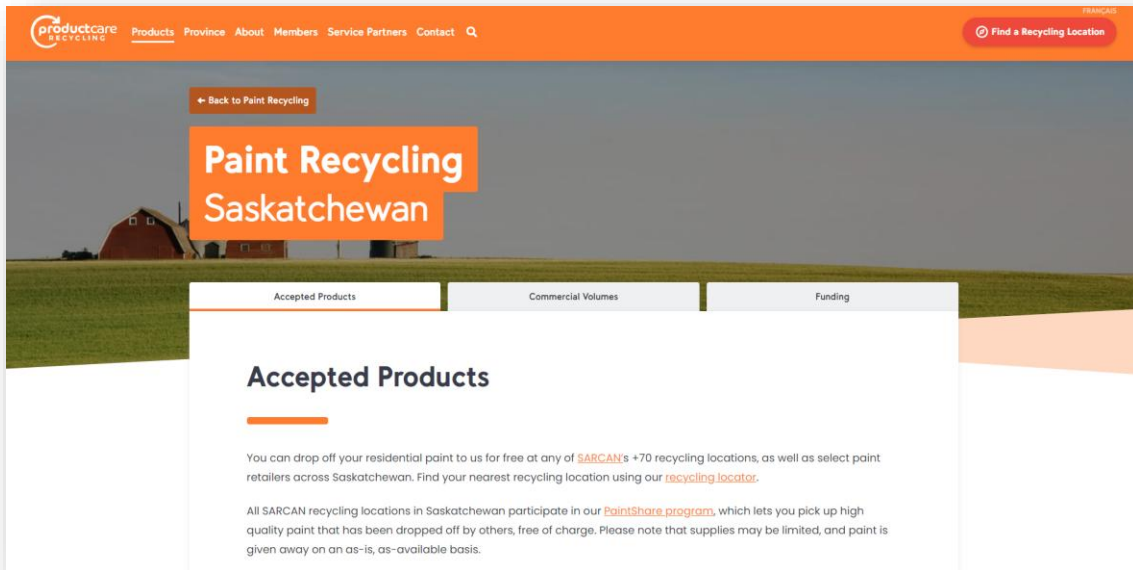
Table 6: Financial Summary 2025

2025 Revenue and Expenses	\$
Total Revenue	1,057,623
Program Operations	847,220
Program Administration	149,954
Education, Public Awareness & Communications	57,617
Total Operating Expenses	1,054,791
Surplus / Deficit	2,832
Cumulative Surplus (Reserve)	2,396,922

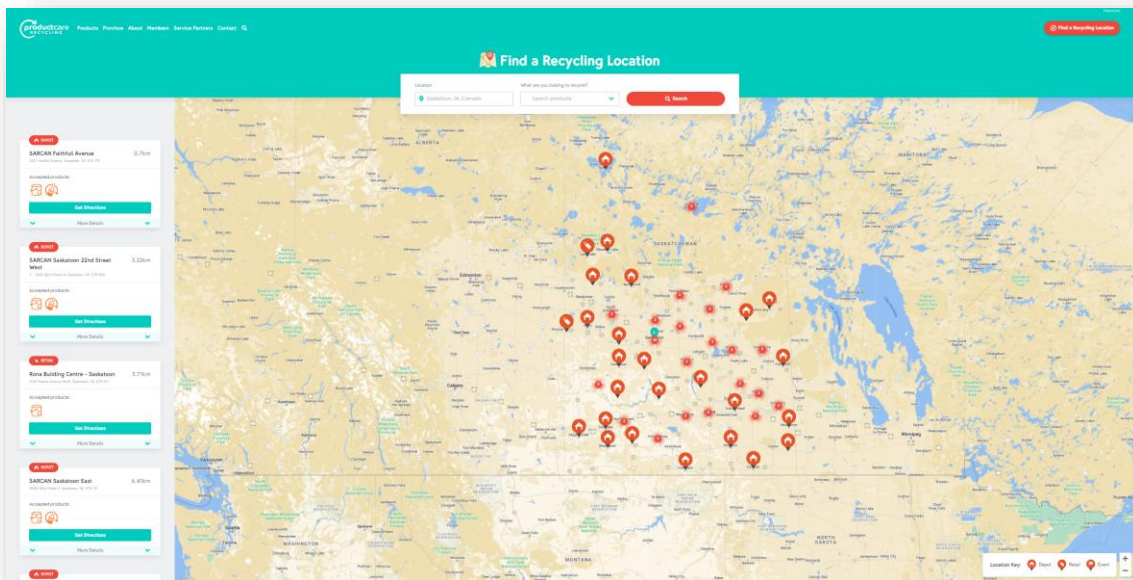
Any surplus revenue is retained in accordance with Product Care's Reserve Policy and used to support the long-term financial sustainability of the Program, including the management of future funding requirements and operational variability. The Program Plan requires that reserve funds be used solely for Program-related costs and not to subsidize other programs. In addition to maintaining appropriate insurance coverage, accumulated reserves form part of the Program's overall environmental risk management framework.

APPENDIX A: PRODUCT CARE WEBSITE AND RECYCLING LOCATOR TOOL

Saskatchewan Paint Program Page



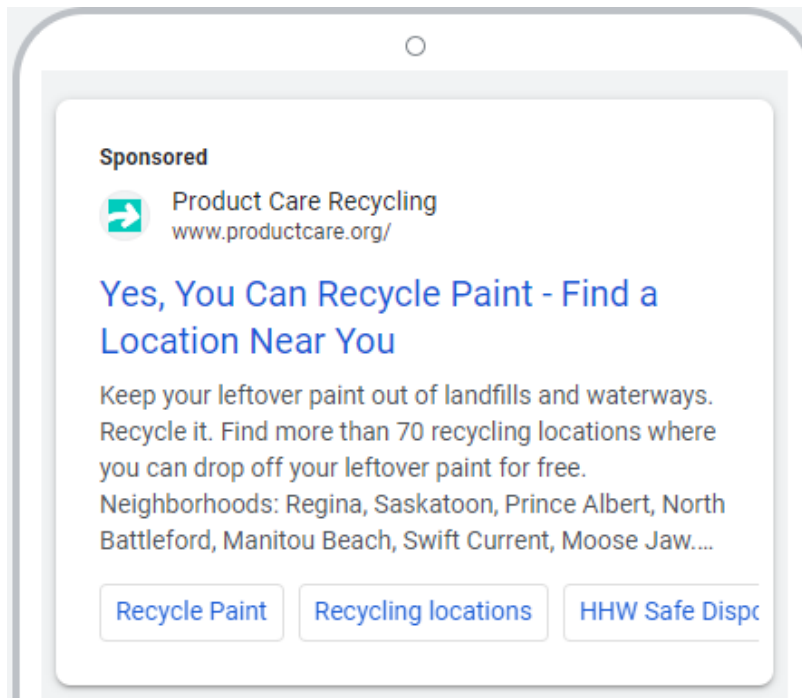
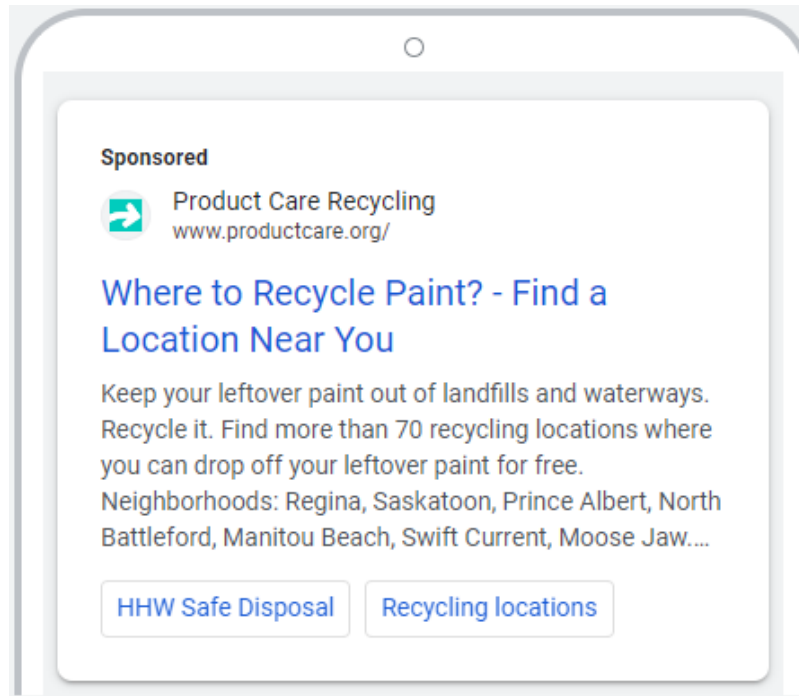
Recycling Locator Tool



APPENDIX B: PUBLIC EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS MATERIALS

DIGITAL ADVERTISING EXAMPLES

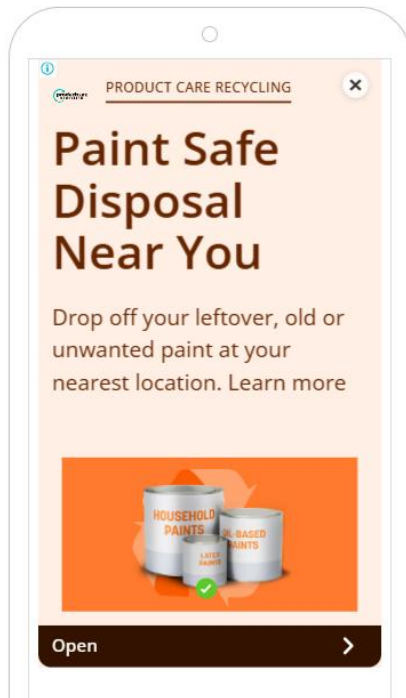
Text Ads – Used for Google Search



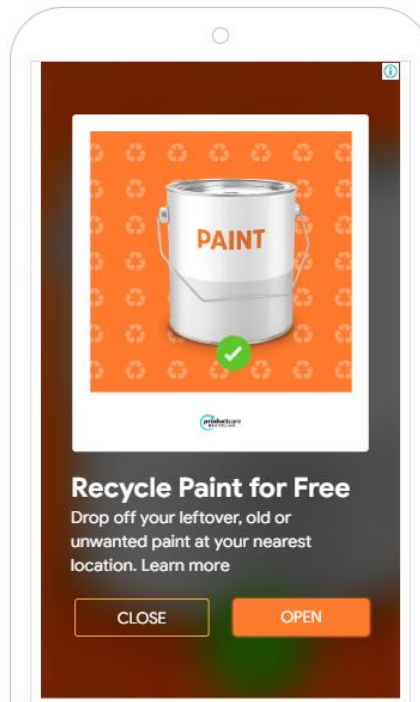


Responsive ads - Used for Display & YouTube

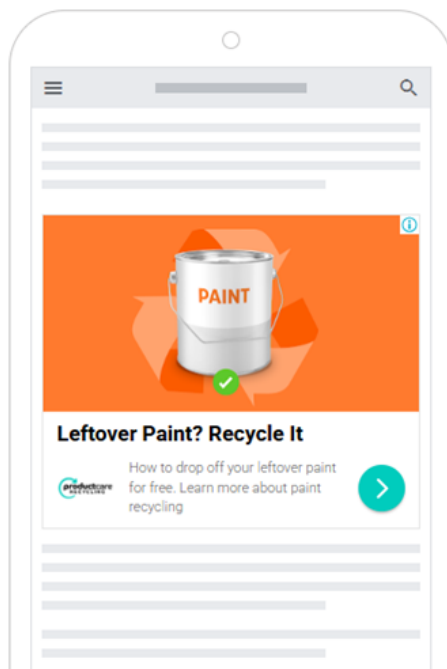
Example of your image ad at 320x568



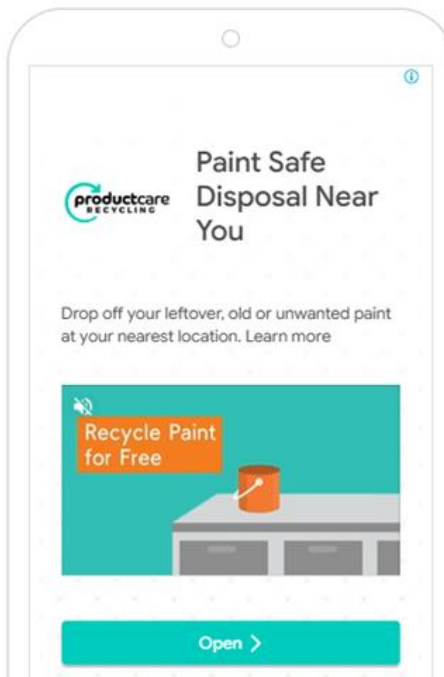
Example of your image ad at 320x568 ⓘ BETA



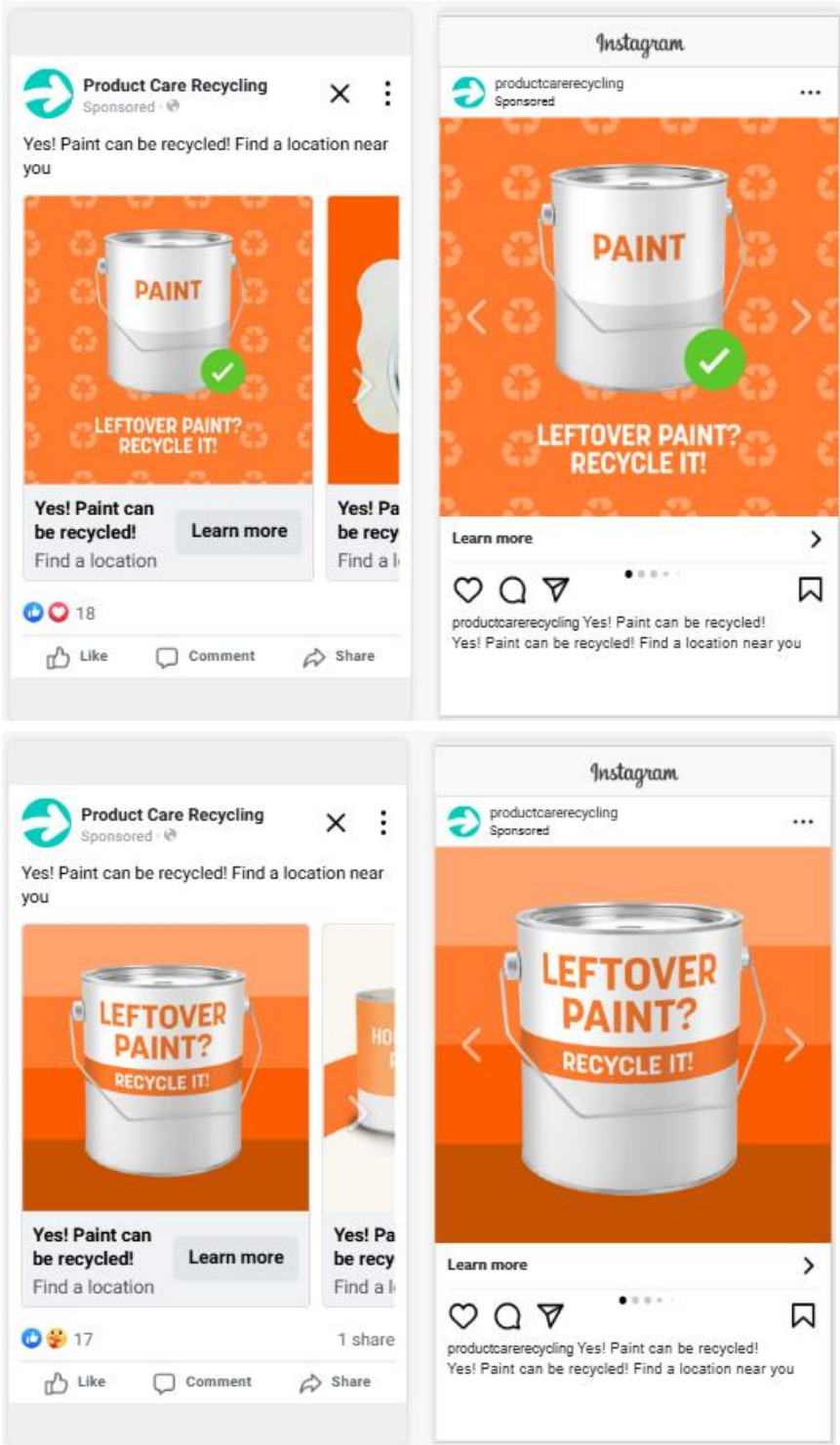
Example of your image ad at 300x250



Example of your video ad at 320x568



Carrousel Ads – Facebook & Instagram



VIDEO ADVERTISING EXAMPLES

15 sec Spot – Used for TV, YouTube, Display & Social Media



Leftover paint?

Got leftover paint?



Don't toss it



Recycle it!



Drop it off for free



At hundreds of recycling locations



**Find the one nearest you at
productcare.org**

POS & POR MATERIALS

Return to Product Care



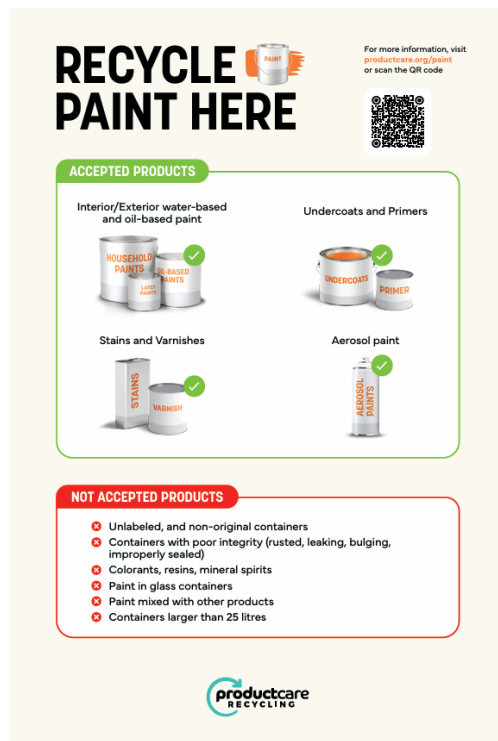
Return to retail



PaintShare Poster



Accepted Products poster



Collection Site Poster

RECYCLING PAINT?

ACCEPTED PAINT PRODUCTS MUST BE DROPPED OFF THE RIGHT WAY

This recycling location only accepts:

Household Paint
 Paint Aerosols
 Empty Paint Cans

No gasoline, propane tanks, or other hazardous waste.
NEVER LEAVE ITEMS OUTSIDE WHEN THE DEPOT IS CLOSED— EVEN ACCEPTED PRODUCTS CAN CAUSE SPILLS AND SAFETY HAZARDS.

Why it matters:

- Leaving items after hours is dangerous and illegal
- Non-program products can't be handled safely
- Abandoned products put staff, the public, and the environment at risk

Need paint for a home or community project?
Access FREE leftover paint at participating PaintShare locations across the province.
Scan the QR code or visit productcare.org/paintshare

Think BUD Flyer

THINK BUD

WHEN YOU BUY PAINT

MOST PEOPLE HAVE LEFTOVER PAINT AFTER A PROJECT

That's why the BUD Rule is so helpful:

B
Buy only what you need

U
Use what you buy

D
Drop off what's left at a recycling location near you

Reducing unnecessary paint purchases minimizes environmental impact, and returning leftover paint while it's still fresh maximizes reuse and recycling outcomes.

Scan the QR code or visit productcare.org/paint to:

- See what's accepted
- Find a drop-off location
- Check hours before you go

PaintShare Poster

Pick up **FREE** leftover paint here!

- 1 Ask staff for assistance
- 2 Select paint
- 3 Sign waiver form
- 4 Bring back container (leftovers or empty)

For more information visit productcare.org/paintshare or scan the QR code

Illegal Dumping Sign

Avoid a \$500+ fine
AREA UNDER SURVEILLANCE!

STOP!

ABANDONING ANY MATERIAL — EVEN IF ACCEPTED — IS ILLEGAL AND PUTS STAFF AT RISK.

Please visit during operating hours.

If you see a dumper, call this number: **1-800-222-TIPS**

Window cling



Want free leftover paint for a project?

Product Care's PaintShare program allows you to pick up free leftover paint from participating recycling locations.

This puts paint where it belongs – art and DIY projects, buildings, walls, and fences – and diverts it away from our landfills and waterways. Leftover paint is given away on an as is, as available basis.

To find a PaintShare location near you, visit productcare.org.



#paintshare



How is Product Care funded?

Product Care Recycling programs are funded by environmental handling fees (EHFs), which are remitted to us by our paint industry members.

The fees are not a tax or a refundable deposit. The fees are used to operate the programs, including collection, transportation, and recycling of leftover paint, as well as program administration and consumer education. EHFs are sometimes itemized on sales receipts.

For specific product fees, visit productcare.org.

Leftover paint?

Recycle it for free!



Scan to find a recycling location near you

productcare.org



Accepted Paint Products

- Interior and exterior water-based (latex, acrylic) and oil-based (alkyd, enamel) household paint
- Undercoat and primers (e.g. metal, wood, etc.)
- Concrete or masonry paint, block filler, drywall or stucco paint, deck and floor coatings/paint (including elastomeric)
- Varnish and urethane (only single component), wood finishing oil, melamine, stain, shellac, anti-rust paint, and stain blocking paint
- Marine paint and wood preservatives (unless registered under Pest Control Products Act)
- Swimming pool paint (only single component)
- Textured paint
- Wood, masonry, driveway sealer, and water repellent (not tar based or bitumen based)*
- All types of aerosol paint
- Empty containers of accepted products



Max. paint container size:
25 litres



Max. paint aerosol size:
24 ounces or 680 grams

* Tar and bitumen based paints and coatings are accepted in Ontario only

Always remember the BUD Rule:

- Buy no more than you need
- Use the paint you buy
- Drop off the leftovers for recycling

Not Accepted Products

- Unidentifiable, unknown, unlabelled, and non-original containers
- Containers with poor integrity (e.g. badly rusted, leaking, bulging, improperly sealed)
- Non-aerosol industrial paints and finishes (e.g. baked-on, heat resistant, etc.)
- Roof patch and repair, tar or tar/bitumen based products*
- Patching stucco and spackling compounds
- Caulking compound, epoxies, glues, and adhesives
- Non-aerosol traffic or line marking paint
- Non-aerosol craft or automotive paint
- Brushes, rags, and rollers
- Two-part or component paints containing catalyst or activator
- Colourants and tints
- Paint thinner, resins, mineral spirits, and solvents
- Waxes, polishes, sealants, and other household products
- Paint mixed with other products
- Products registered as a pesticide under the Pest Control Products Act (has a P.C.P. registration number on label)
- Paint for skating rinks and curling club floors
- Household cleaners

Note: Some products may be accepted through local household hazardous waste programs (check with your local waste authority)

* Tar and bitumen based paints and coatings are accepted in Ontario only



Have large volumes of leftover paint?

In select provinces, you may qualify for free pick up. Visit productcare.org for more information.

Who is Product Care?

Product Care Recycling is a federally incorporated, not-for-profit organization that responsibly manages products at end-of-life. We contribute to the local economy, keep hazardous materials out of our landfills and waterways, conserve resources, and protect the planet by recycling millions of litres of paint each year.

Visit productcare.org to find a recycling location near you.

productcare.org
1-877-392-2972
In BC: 1-800-667-4321



Collection Site Signage



Paint



For a full list of accepted products scan this code or visit productcare.org



Accepted Paint Products

- Household paint (*interior or exterior, water or oil based; includes latex, acrylic, alkyd, enamel*) **and primers** (*metal, wood, etc.*)
- Varnish and urethane (*only single component*), wood finishing oil, melamine, stain, shellac paint
- Anti-rust, concrete, metal, and masonry paint
- Single component paints including stain blocking, swimming pool, textured, and drywall paint or stucco paint
- All types of paint aerosols
- Empty containers of accepted products

Maximum paint container size: 25 litres
Maximum paint aerosol size: 680 grams or 24 ounces



Not Accepted Products

- Unknown, unlabelled, rusted, bulging, or non-original containers
- Non-aerosol industrial paints and finishes (*e.g. baked-on, heat resistant, etc.*), non-aerosol craft or automotive paint
- Roof patch and repair, tar or tar/bitumen based products
- Caulking compound, epoxies, glues and adhesives
- Non-aerosol traffic or line-marking paint
- Brushes, rags and rollers
- Colourants and tints
- Household cleaners (*wood, deck, wall, or surface cleaners*)

IT IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED TO ABANDON MATERIALS AT THIS SITE

Emergency contact:
1-877-592-2972



RESPONSIBLE, TOGETHER.