



Managing Unused Latex Paint

Focusing on Rural Communities in Maine

July 22nd ecomaine, Portland, ME
July 23rd AVCOG, Auburn, ME

What is NEWMOA?

- Non-profit, non-partisan interstate association
- Solid waste, hazardous waste, waste site cleanup, & pollution prevention programs
- CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, RI, & VT
- Formally recognized by EPA in 1986
- More information is at:

www.newmoa.org





NEWMOA's Involvement

- Coordinate this Project on behalf of the SW programs of our member states
- Applied for funding from USDA
- Partnered with 5 rural communities in these states – AVCOG and Maine DEP

And here we are today...



Why Focus on Waste Paint?

- Large Volume:
 - 2.3 gallons of paint sold/person/yr
 - ~80% is latex
 - ~10% is leftover
 - Less than half is collected
- Costly to manage
- Disposal can cause environmental impacts and is a waste of resources

Current Management Options



- Oil-based: HHW collection events or facilities
- Latex: dry out or mix to make solid & dispose in the trash

Proper management is not convenient

- leads to accumulation
- improper disposal

USDA Waste Paint Project

- Promote Strategies to:
 - prevent paint waste
 - increase reuse & recycling
- Focus on rural areas:
 - communities in Maine, New York, and Vermont
- Develop:
 - best management practices & outreach materials
 - customized workshops for each location
 - resource needs assessments



Project Activities, To Date

- Established Project Steering Committee
- Established 5 Stakeholder Workgroups
- Published brochure on waste latex paint management practices
- Conducted workshops



Maine Workgroup

Project Partners:

- Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments (AVCOG)
- Maine Dept. of Environmental Protection

Stakeholders:

- Municipalities – Towns of Mechanic Falls and Livermore
- Natural Resource Council of Maine
- HHW Coordinator
- Recycling Coordinator
- Painting Contractor





Focus of ME Discussions

- Prevention through Education
 - purchase less paint
 - store leftover paint properly so it is reusable
- Paint Exchanges (aka “Drop & Swaps”)
 - facilitate local reuse
- Recycling
 - product stewardship law for paint recycling (LD 1308)



Prevention



Benefits

- Customers buy less paint = save money \$\$\$
(have less leftover paint)
- Paint is properly stored so it can be reused
- Reduces potential environmental or health hazards from drying process, improper, or illegal disposal

Educational Messages

Purchase only the amount of paint needed

- Measure the square footage of the room or use an online paint calculator before going to the store





Paint Calculators

- Benjamin Moore:
www.benjaminmoore.com/en-us/for-your-home/paint-calculator
- Lowes:
www.lowes.com/cd_Paint+Calculator_953562246
- PaintCare:
www.paintcare.org/calculator.php
- King Co., WA HW Management Program:
www.lhwmp.org/home/HHW/paint-calc.aspx

And Many More!!!

Educational Messages

Purchase only the amount of paint needed

- Stores use formulas when mixing paint – you can get more later
- Use 4-ounce samples or quart sizes of paint when experimenting with new colors



Educational Messages

Store unused paint properly to preserve its quality

- Cover can with plastic film
- Tightly close lid & store upside down
- Don't store in attics, garages, or sheds



Education Messages

Know your local reuse & disposal options

- Donate good quality paint
- Recycle paint
- Properly dispose of unusable paint

