Alberta recycling MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

STEWARDSHIP
PAINT RECYCLING
2025–2026 PROGRESS REPORT

41.74 MILLION LITRES OF PAINT RECYCLED SINCE 2008

ENOUGH TO PAINT OVER **626,580 HOMES**

DROPPED OF AT **357** COLLECTION SITES IN 139 MUNICIPALITIES AND INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

ALSO PICKED UP FROM ALBERTA BUSINESSES AND INSTITUTIONS

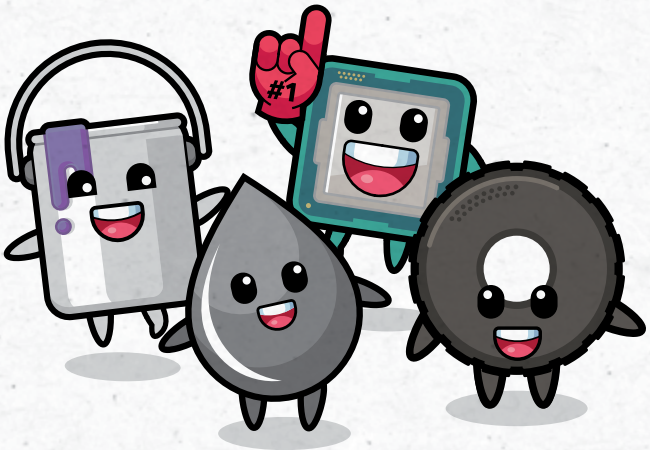
LEFTOVER LATEX IS MADE INTO NEW PAINT, WHILE SOLID OR SEMI-SOLID PAINT IS USED AS COMPONENTS IN CEMENT MANUFACTURING

OIL BASED PAINT IS ADDED TO FUEL BLENDS TO CREATE ALTERNATIVE FUEL SOURCES

METAL AND PLASTIC CANS ARE RECYCLED INTO NEW PRODUCTS LIKE REBAR OR PLASTIC LUMBER

ALBERTA BUSINESSES RECYCLE THEIR PAINT

Commercial Paint Roundups are firmly established events in Edmonton, Calgary, and for the sixth year in a row, Red Deer. The roundups enable painting contractors and businesses to drop off unlimited amounts of program paint at no charge. ARMA staff are also on site to help unload material.



TEACHING RESOURCES

Developed by ARMA, this engaging resource introduces students to the recycling process for electronics, paint, tires, and used oil materials—an essential yet often overlooked part of environmental responsibility.

Featuring interactive learning resources and activities, this guide complements other recycling education resources, reinforcing the principles of reducing, reusing, and recycling, with a specific focus on materials that go beyond the blue bin.

Find it on our website under the **'Learn'** section.

PAINT RECYCLING RESULTS

These charts display results of paint and paint container recycling over the last three years.

PAINT AND COATINGS PROCESSED	KG. (MILLIONS)	LITRES* (MILLIONS)	KG. PER CAPITA	RECOVERY RATE	CAPTURE RATE
2023–2024 Result	3.10	2.59	0.66	10%	84%
2024–2025 Result	3.08	2.57	0.63	9%	79%
2025–2026 Target	3.12	2.60	0.62	11%	90%
2025–2026 Result	**3.15**	**2.63**	**0.63**	**9%**	**78%**

**Based on an average weight per litre of 1.2 kg.*

PAINT AND COATING CONTAINERS PROCESSED	METAL (KG.)	PLASTIC (KG.)	TOTAL (KG.)
2023–2024 Result	460,032	68,992†	529,024
2024–2025 Result	235,022	304,760	539,782
2025–2026 Target	250,114	101,743	351,857
2025–2026 Result	**284,833**	**240,525**	**525,358**

†Some recyclers experienced challenges with finding an end-market for empty plastic containers.

AEROSOL PAINT CANS PROCESSED	UNITS	RECOVERY RATE
2023–2024 Result	885,218	22%
2024–2025 Result	856,471	21%
2025–2026 Target	901,324	25%
2025–2026 Result	**812,024**	**21%**

"Alberta processes more than twice the national average volume of paint."

2026 EY Economic Impact Assessment: Product Care, Éco-Peinture QC, national average of 1,217,376 litres.

PROGRAM **SUSTAINABILITY**

The environmental fees Albertans pay for new paint are used to help fund the collection and recycling of used material along with other program-related costs. Registered producers and suppliers remit fees on eligible products sold. ARMA values their commitment as part of the front line of the program.

Sustainability reviews of processor operations are periodically conducted by an independent third party to assess the adequacy of program funding levels.

FEE MANAGEMENT

RECYCLING EXPENDITURES

88.6%

Collection and recycling of paint and containers

RECYCLING DEVELOPMENT

0.6%

R&D; Program awareness

PROGRAM DELIVERY EXPENDITURES

6.1%

Costs to deliver the program

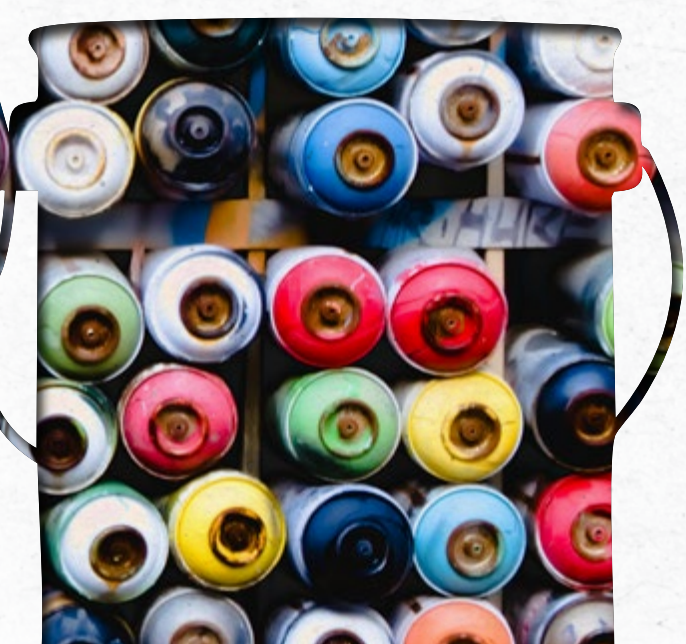
CORPORATE ADMINISTRATION

4.7%

Corporate costs

ENVIRONMENTAL FEES

	100ml to 250ml	$0.40
	251ml to 1L	$0.70
	1.01L to 5L	$1.30
	5.01L to 23L	$2.80
	Aerosol/Spray Paint Cans (all sizes)	$0.40



ENVIRONMENTAL **COMPLIANCE**

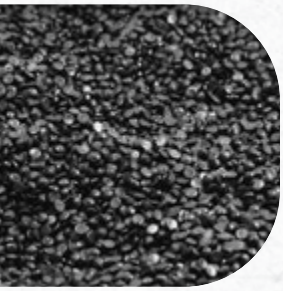
ARMA's goal is to ensure all paint and containers are collected and recycled by registered processors in an environmentally and socially responsible manner. Regular site visits and independent environmental audits every three years help confirm processors meet program requirements.

WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR LEFTOVER PAINT, AND METAL & PLASTIC CANS?

Registered processors pick up leftover or unused paint and empty cans from paint recycling depots and recycling roundups as well as from businesses and institutions.

Made-in-Alberta solutions address the handling of leftover latex paint with an approved processor who processes it into new paint. If the latex is solid or semi-solid, it can be used as feedstock in cement manufacturing rather than being landfilled. Oil-based paint is bulked and shipped to approved downstream processors to be used in fuel blends to provide alternative fuel sources.

Plastic containers are recycled into molded products, and the metal cans are recycled into industrial products such as rebar.



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For more information, read ARMA's Annual Report on our website under **Publications** or scan the QR code.

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