



FAQs

What is Paintback?

Paintback is an industry-led initiative, founded to responsibly manage the disposal of Australia's unwanted paint and packaging. Operating as an independent not-for-profit organisation, Paintback and offers a variety of free to drop-off locations across Australia.

Through research and development, Paintback is finding new uses for paint and packaging in resource recovery and methods of disposal that avoid harming the environment.

How is Paintback funded?

To fund the collection, treatment and transportation of the unwanted paint and packaging, a levy of 15 cents (plus GST) per litre is applied to the wholesale price of eligible products in containers over 1 litre and up to 20.

All DIY and trade painters who purchase eligible products from participating paint brands fund the scheme through the levy.

Why do I need to pay the levy if I'm a trade painter who uses up all my paint?

Trade painters often use leftover paint on other jobs, but the empty steel and plastic containers still need to be recycled, even when no paint remains. Sometimes, painters leave extra paint with customers for touch-ups, but eventually, both the leftover paint and containers must be responsibly disposed of. The levy included in the paint price covers the future costs of recycling and disposal, ensuring customers aren't burdened when that time comes.

Is there an incentive for trade painters to use the Paintback scheme?

Although there isn't a direct financial incentive for trade painters to use the Paintback program, it offers a valuable benefit by providing a responsible way to dispose of unwanted paint and packaging. Paintback offers a convenient and environmentally friendly solution for both DIY enthusiasts and trade professionals. Participants can drop off their unwanted paint and packaging at any participating Paintback site, through partnered councils, at no extra cost at the time of disposal.

How much paint can be dropped off at Paintback?

Paintback accepts a maximum volume of 100 litres of eligible paint and packaging per visit. This must be secured in containers no larger than 20 litres. This is to ensure that Paintback locations are not overwhelmed by large volumes of unwanted paint quickly. The container size limit ensures safe manual handling of the paint from your vehicle at the collection point.

All paint must be secured in the original containers it was purchased in. The volume of the material being dropped off is measured by the size of the container not the amount of paint inside.

Examples:

You can return:



5 x 20 litre paint cans



10 x 10 litre paint cans



50 x 2 litre paint cans

How much paint packaging can I return?

Packaging includes only plastic and metal containers in which paint was originally sold.

Paintback accepts up to 100 litres per visit. The 100-litre maximum is based on the capacity of the container, not the volume of paint left over in the container.

Only empty containers can be stacked inside larger empty containers provided the largest container does not exceed 20 litres in capacity. This practice allows our collection sites to maximise space in the collection bins and provides everyone the opportunity to use the bins safely.

Why does Paintback put a limit on how much waste paint I can take back?

The limit on returning products is in place to ensure there is enough space for others to drop off their unwanted paint material and for the safety of Paintback visitors and location operators.

Many states in Australia have a legal limit on transporting chemicals by vehicle. The drop off limit supports these laws by only allowing a maximum of 100 litres of paint and packaging to be brought to any dedicated Paintback location.

The 100 litre limit is based on the capacity of the container, not the volume of paint left over in a container.

Why can't we drop off our unwanted paint and packaging back at the retail outlet that we purchased it from?

Retail paint suppliers are not suitable as drop-off points due to several reasons, such as limited space for safe storage of materials, restricted access for large vehicles to enter and exit efficiently, and potential safety hazards for both staff and the public.

What happens to the paint once we drop it off?



The unwanted paint and packaging are stored at a local collection point ready for Paintback to pick it up.



Paintback transports it from the collection point for treatment.



At the processing plant, packaging and liquid are separated, and the containers are recycled. The solvent paint is used as an alternative energy source. Water is separated from acrylic paint, with the by-product used in a variety of industrial applications.

Where do I find my closest Paintback drop-off location?

New sites are regularly being established in both regional and metropolitan areas.

You can find your closest Paintback drop off location by using the location finder on the Paintback website at www.paintback.com.au/find-location or by scanning the QR code below.

