

BCF Press release
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British Coatings Federation survey reveals barriers to recycling leftover paint as faced by local authorities in the UK

The British Coatings Federation (BCF) has unveiled the results of its 2016 PaintCare local authorities survey which reveal the barriers to recycling leftover paint as faced by Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) across the UK. The BCF's PaintCare programme aims to create a national paint recycling and remanufacturing scheme to make better use of the estimated 55 million litres of leftover paint generated each year in the UK, most of which is currently landfilled and incinerated. A national scheme for leftover paint would depend upon the creation of a national collection network, but currently only one in three HWRCs accept paint in the UK. The survey aimed to understand why the majority of HWRCs are not accepting paint and the challenges faced by those HWRCs which do accept paint.

Amongst the findings from the HWRC sites that do accept paint, the survey revealed that the majority of paint collected ends up in landfill or is incinerated. Encouragingly, it was established that the other half of collected paint is sent to a paint recycler or remanufacturer, highlighting that such a solution can work for HWRCs. The survey reaffirmed previous research commissioned by the BCF that sending paint to a paint recycler or remanufacturer presents a 40% cost saving to local authorities. The cost saving is largely due to the high cost to incinerate paint as hazardous waste, which is the current practice at many HWRCs.

The survey findings from the sites which do not collect leftover paint reveal the main barriers preventing local authorities from taking on a paint recycling service. Nearly 30% of those surveyed stated their reluctance to take on a paint recycling service was due to cost, whilst 25% said they do not have enough space on-site. These findings indicate that in order to make a national solution possible, financial support and an increase in on-site storage are essential.

Commenting on the survey findings, Tom Bowtell Chief Executive of the BCF said: "In order to stop the landfilling of leftover paint, we need a national collection system which householders can use to dispose of their paint, and believe the existing HWRC network is the best driver for this. It is clear from the findings of this survey, that any paint recycling or remanufacturing solution for leftover paint will need to take into consideration budget and space implications."

To read the full report, visit www.paintcare.org.uk/resources or email tania.morrill@bcf.co.uk.

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The British Coatings Federation is the sole Trade Association representing the UK paints, printing inks, powder coatings and wallcoverings manufacturers. Proudly led by the BCF and supported by government and industry, PaintCare aims to stop the landfilling of leftover decorative paint in the UK. For further information, please contact Tania Morrill at the BCF, tania.morrill@bcf.co.uk, telephone 01372 365992 www.paintcare.org.uk