



2016 PaintCare local authorities survey



PaintCare is proudly led by the
British Coatings Federation



BCF

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Forward

In 2015, the BCF commissioned a leftover paint survey, distributed to a nationally representative sample of adults and established that on average, each household in the UK has six cans of unused paint in their sheds or garages. What may seem like a minor inconvenience in household storage amounts to a serious environmental challenge, with a total of 55 million litres or 71,500 tonnes of paint leftover each year which when disposed, 98% ends up in landfill or is incinerated. As part of the PaintCare programme, the BCF underwent an exercise to estimate the disposal costs of leftover paint to local authorities. The resultant figures are staggering – the total costs to local authorities to dispose of waste paint exceed £20 million per year, largely due to the high cost to incinerate (£500/tonne on average). The research established that by sending paint to a remanufacturer or a reuse organisation in place of incineration or landfill, local authorities would see a cost savings of 40% each year.

It was also established in the survey that 62% of respondents use their HWRC at least once per year, pointing to the importance of the HWRC network as a means of disposal for leftover paint. Given the high costs of managing leftover paint, it's not a surprise that only one in three HWRCs accept paint currently. One of the aims of PaintCare is to implement a national solution to the leftover paint problem, the success of which would rely on a national collection system.

Considering the expected cost savings along with the environmental gains of recycling or remanufacturing paint, rather than incinerating and landfilling, we were keen to understand the barriers faced by HWRCs when it comes to taking on a paint recycling service, as well as the existing challenges faced by local authorities which already offer paint recycling. With this in mind, a separate survey to HWRCs was launched in 2016 as part of PaintCare, to provide more insight into these areas. The survey looked at the on-site practices concerning leftover paint management. The results also give us a better understanding of what happens to that paint after it's been received at an HWRC. Importantly, the results explain the barriers preventing HWRCs from taking on a paint recycling service. Finally, we were surprised, and very encouraged, to hear that many sites are successfully using a paint recycler/remanufacturer to reuse their collected paint.

As part of PaintCare, we will continue our work to address the challenges faced by HWRCs when it comes to leftover paint management and are hopeful that, in the future, more HWRCs will be working with a paint recycler/remanufacturer to dispose leftover paint.



Peter Jones OBE
Chair of the BCF PaintCare
Steering Committee

Executive summary

The 2016 PaintCare local authorities survey represents the views of over 400 local authorities' HWRC sites in the UK, almost half the UK's total. The survey was answered by representatives from a wide variety of HWRCs in England and Wales, some of which collect liquid paint and some of which do not. It is important to note that the survey findings only report on the sites with declared paint. We are aware that a significant amount of paint is put in black bin bags by homeowners and entering the general waste stream, all of which ends up in landfill or is incinerated.

The findings from this survey will be used to guide the future direction of PaintCare, and shows that any paint recycling/remanufacturing solution for local authorities will need to take into consideration budget and space implications. In the long-term, we hope to move away from landfilling and incinerating paint, and towards a reuse or remanufacturing solution, at a lower cost to local authorities and with a more circular approach to leftover paint management.

Key messages

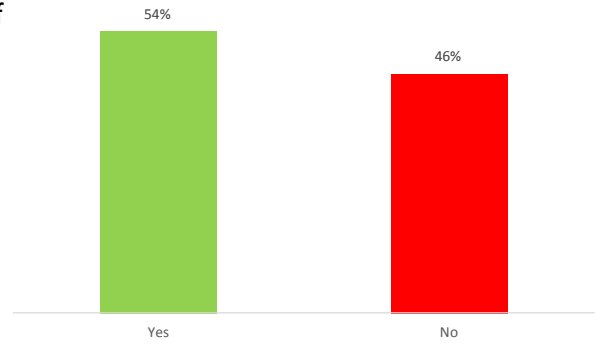
Several key messages were taken from the findings of the survey:

- The majority of HWRC sites are not collecting paint currently
- Of the sites that do collect paint, over half the collected paint ends up in landfill or is incinerated
- Encouragingly, the other half of collected paint is sent to a recycler or remanufacturer. This finding highlights the fact that paint recycling/remanufacturing solutions can work for HWRCs
- The main reasons HWRCs are not collecting paint are the cost and space implications incurred as the result of taking on a paint recycling service
- Sending paint to a remanufacturer or a reuse organisation presents a 40% cost savings to local authorities



I. Sample

The survey was completed by 62 respondents, reporting on behalf of 414 HWRCs in the UK, nearly half of the total HWRCs in the country (1,000). Of the sites, 54% accept liquid paint, 46% do not accept liquid paint.

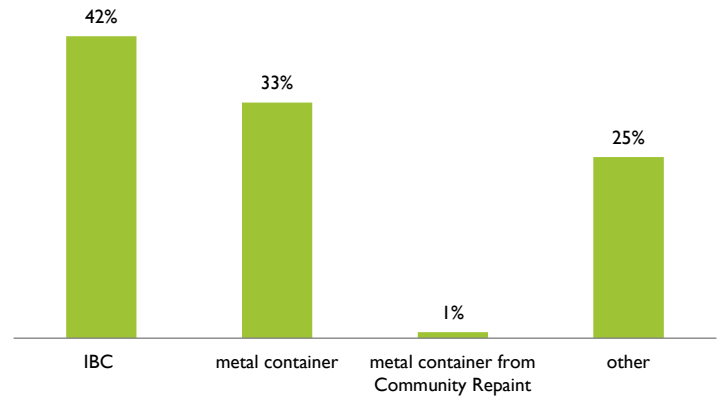


2. Survey findings - for HWRC sites that **do** accept paint

2.1 How do you store paint at your HWRC/s?

Summary:

- Nearly half (42%) of the sites use intermediate bulk containers (IBCs) to store waste paint
- 33% of sites use a metal container



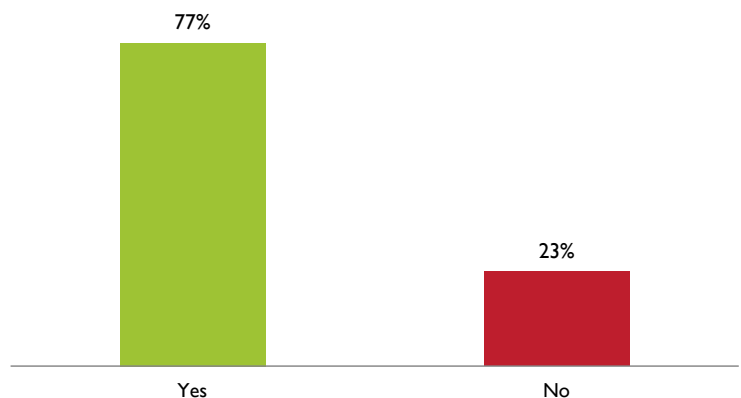
* Results are weighted by number of sites

* Based on 25 responses, responding on behalf of 120 sites

2.2 Do you pre-sort to separate solvent-based paint from water-based paint?

Summary:

- 77% of the sites pre-sort paint to separate solvent-based paint from water-based paint



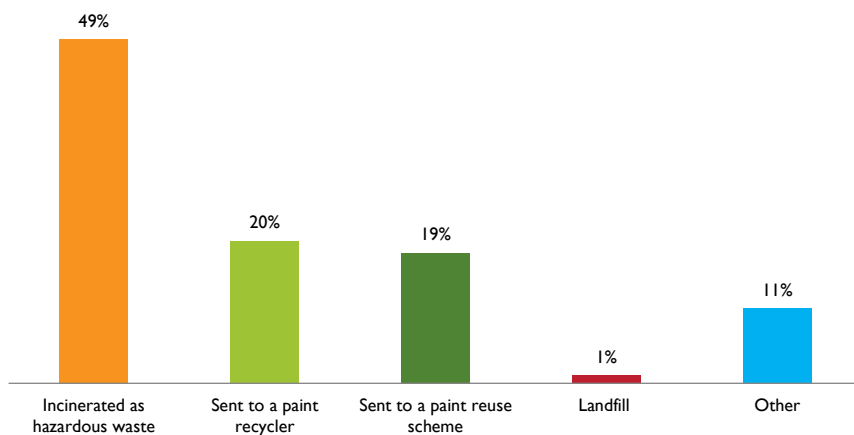
* Results are weighted by number of sites

* Based on 43 responses, responding on behalf of 168 sites

2.3 What is the destination of the solvent-based paint once sorted?

Summary:

- Nearly half of the sites send solvent-based paint for incineration
- Approximately 40% of the sites send their solvent-based paint to a paint recycler or a paint reuse scheme
- 1% of solvent-based paint is reportedly landfilled



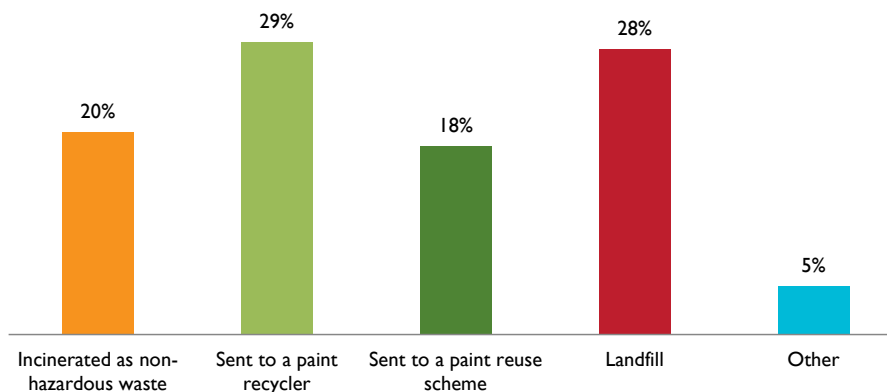
* Results are weighted by number of sites

* Based on 22 responses, responding on behalf of 177 sites

2.4 What is the destination of the water-based paint once sorted?

Summary:

- 47% of water-based paint reportedly goes to a paint recycler or a paint reuse scheme
- 20% of sites send their water-based paint for incineration
- 28% of the sites use landfill as the primary means of disposal for water-based paint



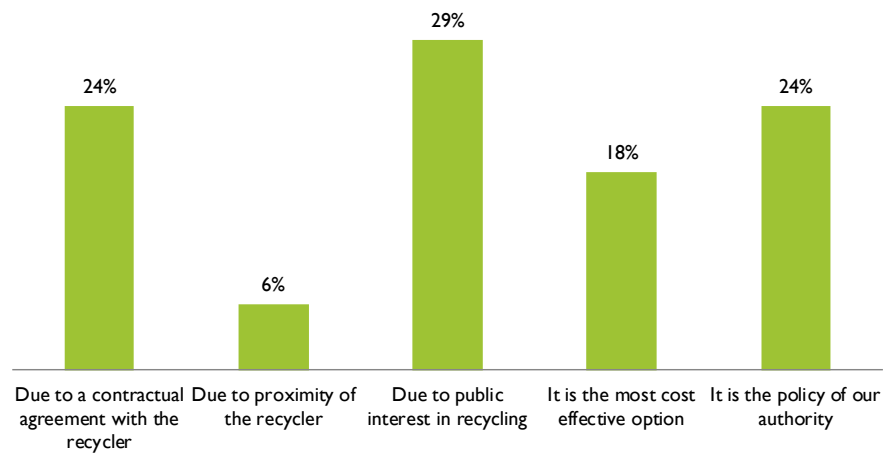
* Results are weighted by number of sites

* Based on 25 responses, responding on behalf of 120 sites

2.5 If you send to a paint recycler, identify why you use this route of disposal?

Summary:

- The majority of the respondents who work with a paint recycler to dispose of leftover paint do so due to the public interest in recycling
- 19% send to a paint recycler due to a contractual agreement with the recycler or because it is the policy within their local authority



* Results are weighted by number of respondents
 * Based on 10 responses, responding on behalf of 49 sites

Comments

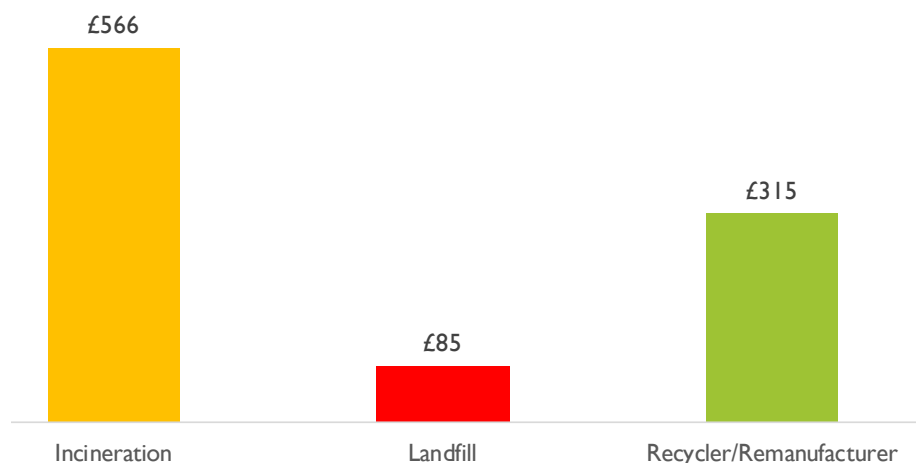
“This is advice on paint disposal on our website: We can accept small amounts of household paint from members of the public (commercial paint not accepted) free of charge at a limited number of recycling centres. The maximum quantity accepted is 25 litres per household per month – for example this could be 2 full x 10 litre containers plus one full 5 litre container or 5 half full 10 litre containers etc – just as long as the overall volume does not exceed 25 litres in total. All visits must be pre-booked and are limited to one visit per household per month.”

2.5 Provide an average cost/tonne to send paint for disposal?

Summary:

- £566/tonne for incineration
- £315/tonne for recycling
- These estimates are in line with previous PaintCare research, adding weight to our belief that sending paint to a recycler for disposal represents a 40% cost savings to local authorities

Please note: these findings are based on less than 10 responses

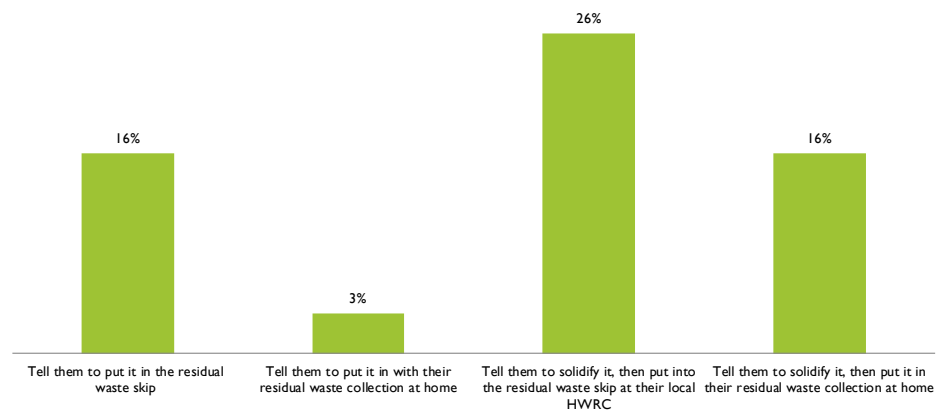


3. Survey findings - for HWRC sites that **do not** accept paint

3.1 What advice do you give to the public if they ask about paint disposal?

Summary:

- The majority of respondents advise the public to solidify their paint and put it in the residual waste skip at their local HWRC
- 16% of respondents advise the public to put their leftover paint in the residual waste skip at their local HWRC, or solidify it and put it in their residual waste collection at home
- A small percentage of the respondents advise the public to put their leftover paint in with their residual waste collection at home



* Results are weighted by number of respondents
 * Based on 11 responses, reporting on behalf of 90 HWRCs

Comments

“We ask residents to solidify waste but unfortunately they tend not to and it is difficult for us to turn them away.”

“If paint is classed as hazardous waste (solvent or lead based etc) then we collect it free of charge from the kerbside on our hazardous waste milkround.”

“An attendant will advise whether they should be placed in the scrap metal or general waste container dependant on how much paint is still in the tin.”

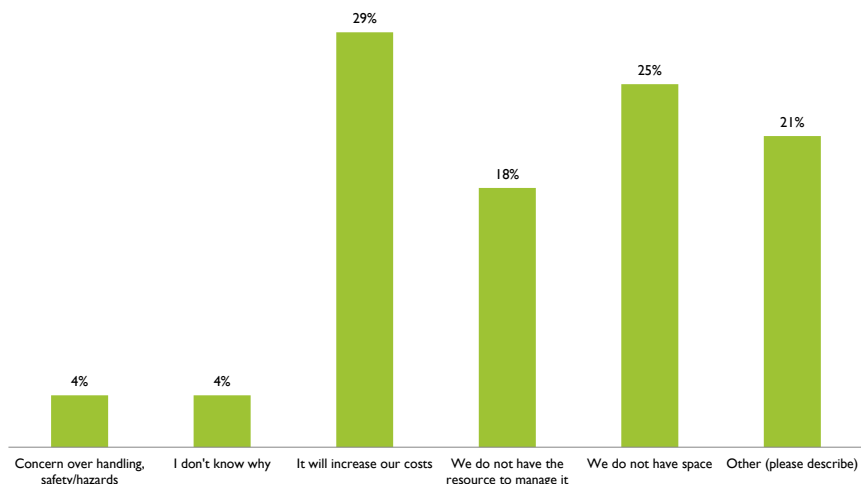
“If paint is classified as non-hazardous (water-based), then we tell them to place it in the household dustbin or the landfill container on our HWRCs.”

“If it is solidified residents are advised to place into general waste. If the paint is still liquid residents are advised to take to one of the neighbouring HWRCs which accept paint. Or they can book a free collection through the Corporation of London's collection programme.”

3.2 Why does/do your HWRC/s not accept liquid paint?

Summary:

- The majority of respondents said their HWRC/s do not accept liquid paint as it will increase costs
- 25% of respondents said their HWRC/s does/do not accept liquid paint as they do not have enough space
- These findings indicate that in order to make a national solution possible, financial support and increased on-site storage are essential



* Results are weighted by number of respondents

* Based on 12 responses, reporting on behalf of 49 HWRCs

Other responses

“We currently have no outlets to dispose of liquid paint effectively within the legislation.”

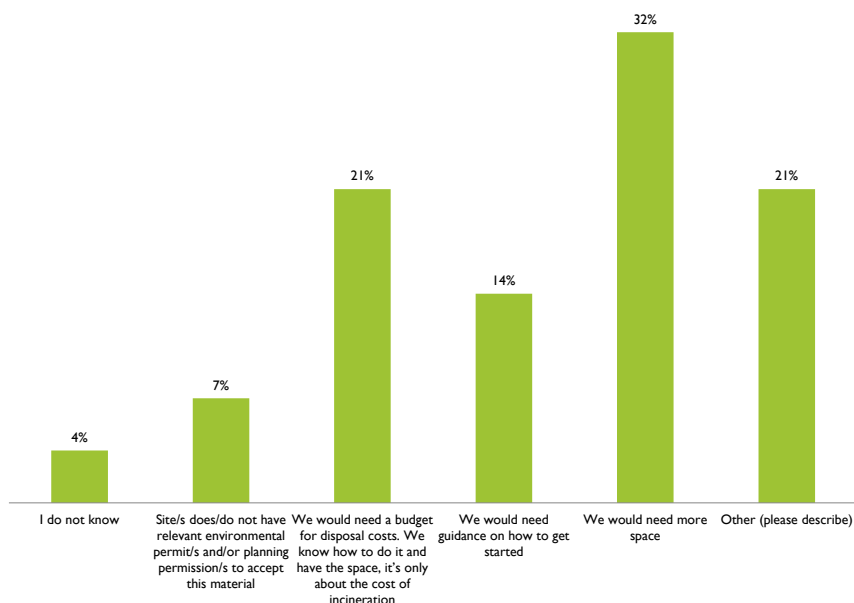
“Concerns we could end up with a lot of useless paint that then costs us to dispose of.”

“We do not accept hazardous paints as when we started the milkround arrangement we were limited to 10 tonnes of hazardous waste storage on each HWRC to qualify for a non-hazardous permit. This included asbestos, engine oil, ELF, fluorescent tubes, car batteries and household (dry cell) batteries. There were knock-on issues around staff training if we operated hazardous sites. It worked out cheaper to collect from the kerbside than to upgrade the permits. As the permitting situation has now changed (to standard rules permits) then we are to review the processes this year.”

3.3 What would have to change for your HWRC/s accept liquid paint?

Summary:

- 32% of respondents said that in order to accept liquid paint at their HWRC/s, they would need more space
- 21% said they would need a budget for disposal costs in order to afford the high costs of incineration



* Results are weighted by number of respondents

* Based on 13 responses, reporting on behalf of 20 HWRCs

Other responses

“We would need a cost effective agreement with possible disposal outlets set up.”

“We would need a separate container for each site plus a budget - and supporting policy.”

“The main concern is the practicality of dealing with paint, storing it and making it available for reuse. Then there is also the concern of how long the paint is kept before it is disposed of.”

“Prior to 2014 we accepted paint for recycling at 8 sites. It was estimated to cost £270k per year so as part of cost saving initiatives this service was removed and all paint was to be accepted on specific weekend at specific sites during ‘amnesty weekends’. These used to cost £30k per year and now cost in the region of £140k so it increased costs in that area but still better value than offering it all year round at recycling centres.”

For more information on the survey results or the PaintCare programme, contact tania.morrill@bcf.co.uk