

Frequently Asked Questions on Maine's Lead Poisoning Prevention Fee



1. What is the Lead Poisoning Prevention Fee?

The Lead Poisoning Prevention Fee is a per-gallon fee imposed on the sale of paint in Maine to fund lead poisoning prevention programs that benefit community members and workers. The Lead Poisoning Prevention Fund (LPPF) is administered by the Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

2. Who must pay the fee?

Generally, companies owning the brand name or private label of paint sold in Maine must pay the fee. For fee-paying purposes, the brand name or private label owners are considered manufacturers of the paint. However, where paint is imported from another country (such as Canada) for sale into Maine, the importer is required to pay the fee unless the brand label owner is subject to Maine's jurisdiction by virtue of doing sufficient business in the state. A company engaged in retail sales does not pay the fee unless it is also the brand name or private label owner and thus considered a paint manufacturer.

3. What if my company does not sell paint in Maine, or sells very little paint in Maine?

If your company sells less than 1,800 gallons of paint in Maine in a calendar year, the fee is waived. If your company does not sell any paint in Maine, the company is not subject to the fee. In either case, you may wish to submit a protective filing by completing the *State of Maine's Lead Poisoning Prevention Fee Annual Remittance Form* and checking the "Method 3" box in the Remittance Calculation section, to be sure DHHS is aware of your status.

4. What kinds of paint are subject to the fee?

Under the rules, all paint products included within the U.S. Census Bureau's Paint and Allied Products sector description, except for miscellaneous allied paint products, are subject to the fee. Thus, paint is defined broadly to include architectural coatings (such as interior and exterior paints, primers, stains, and lacquers), product finishes for original equipment manufacturers (such as finishes for vehicles, appliances, metals, and furniture), and special-purpose coatings (such as traffic marking paints, marine paints, and vehicle refinishing paints). Table 2 of the 2004 Census Report for this sector contains a list of the relevant paint product categories, is referenced in the rules, and appears on Maine CDC's website at:

<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/sites/maine.gov.dhhs.mecdc/files/lead/tsdappd.pdf>

5. How do I calculate the amount of my company's fee?

For paint sold in Maine in calendar year 2025, the fee amount is 25 cents per gallon, so you must convert the volume of paint you sold to the number of gallons. You can determine the amount of Maine paint sales in one of two ways; the choice is yours. If you can track actual Maine sales within the calendar year, simply use that actual sales volume. Alternatively, you can assume Maine sales represent 0.42% of your national paint sales, and thereby multiply your company's national paint sales by 0.0042. Just indicate on the reporting form which method you chose.

Starting January 1, 2026 the paint fee will increase to 75 cents per gallon of paint sold.

6. Is the fee collected at the point of sale or paid by stores where paints are sold?

No. The fee is paid once per year by the corporate owner of the brand name or private label, covering all Maine paint sales for that company during the prior calendar year.

7. How does a company pay the fee?

Starting in 2023, the fee may be made through ACH debit transfer in PayMaine, an online secure payment system operated by the Office of the State Treasurer. This system is provided for your convenience; however, check payments will still be accepted. For more information on how to submit your choice of payment, please see the enclosed *Lead Poisoning Prevention Fee: Payment/Remittance Options* form.

The *State of Maine's Lead Poisoning Prevention Fee Annual Remittance Form* should be completed, signed by a “responsible corporate official” and returned to Maine CDC. For a corporation, a responsible corporate official is a senior manager of a company—defined as a president, vice-president, secretary, or treasurer—who is in charge of a principal business function, or another person performing a similar decision-making function. There are instructions on the form indicating how to return the reporting form.

8. When must the fee be paid?

The deadline for fee submission and the return of the reporting form is April 1 for the preceding calendar year.

Payment Due Date

April 1, 2026
July 1, 2026

For Sales in

Calendar Year 2025
Jan 1, 2026-June 30, 2026

9. What should I do if I want to keep the information on the reporting form confidential?

Check the box on the reporting form that indicates you wish to designate the submitted information as confidential. Information designated confidential will be segregated from DHHS’s public records. Under the Lead Poisoning Prevention Fee rules, you will be notified if a member of the public requests access to the information and will then be provided with an opportunity to demonstrate that the information should not be disclosed under applicable state law.

10. When will the fee lapse?

The law establishing the Lead Poisoning Prevention Fee states that the fee is repealed when the Commissioner of Health and Human Services certifies a period of 24 months has elapsed since the Department of Health and Human Services identified a child with an elevated blood lead level through screening by health care providers.

11. Who should I contact if I need more information?

For additional information regarding submission of the fee and/or the activities supported by the fee, as well as the applicable law, regulations, and a copy of the reporting form, please go to the following website and scroll to the bottom of the page:

<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/healthy-living/health-and-safety/lead-poisoning-prevention/community-partners>. You may also contact Erin Guay, Prevention Manager, Maine CDC Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program: (207) 215-6934; Erin.Guay@maine.gov.