

# Lead by Example Project Case Study:

## Repainting ACF Industries Warehouse

Recycled latex paint is made primarily with leftover latex paint that has been brought to local household hazardous waste (HHW) facilities by residents, or recycled by painting contractors and other paint users. The collected paint is visually checked for quality and then sent to paint manufacturers for recycling.

Recycled paint is gaining acceptance among painters, contractors, architects, designers and building owners in both private and government sectors due to its proven performance.

ACF's main goal in this project was to introduce recycled latex paint to the normal repainting practices that already occurs at the Adult Corrections Facility Industries Warehouse. Using recycled paint in county facilities, such as the ACF, helps encourage the use of other environmentally preferable products and also helps save money. Using environmentally preferable products does not mean accepting a lower standard of performance in county facilities.

From, May 2004-May 2005, the Adult Corrections Facility (ACF) Industries Warehouse performed a pilot using recycled paint.

## Prior Practices

ACF uses inmate labor for several maintenance-related activities that occur at the correctional facilities. This teaches inmates various skills while keeping maintenance costs down. Inmates were accustomed to prepping and painting the warehouse about every 10 years using virgin exterior latex paint.

## Project Plan

ACF used recycled latex paint to paint the ACF Industries Warehouse. This included surface prepping such as the removal of loose paint, dust, and cobwebs utilizing ACF Residents. Staff at the ACF reported on the performance of using recycled paint compared to virgin paint products.



**AFTER** Painting: Finished Industries Warehouse with its new coat of recycled paint at the Adult Corrections Facility.



*The Administration Wing of Hennepin County's Adult Corrections Facility.*

## Quick Snapshot

### Who

Adult Corrections Facility (ACF)  
Industries Warehouse

### What

Used recycled latex paint for repainting the ACF Industries Warehouse

### Benefits

- Saved over \$1,000 on the costs compared to using virgin paint.
- Provided ACF Residents with a job training opportunity.
- No difference in quality between recycled and virgin paint.
- Increase in warehouse productivity.

### Grant Amount

\$1,200.00



- Continues on back-

## Project Performance

There was no difference in the finished results from using virgin versus recycled latex paint. There were some areas of the warehouse that needed a second coat of paint. This was due to the condition of the walls, not the paint quality. The color was consistent from the recycled paint—even when additional areas were painted at a later time.

## Sustaining the Project

ACF has painted three additional rooms with recycled content paint. ACF will look for other opportunities to use recycled paint in future projects.

## Reblended Paint

ACF used recycled latex paint known as reblended paint. Average savings are 44% and is good for warehouses and graffiti abatement. Recycled paint known as “reprocessed paint” has a cost savings of 11% and is more suitable for interior primer and block filler.

## Online Resources

### Amazon Environmental, Inc.

[www.nvo.com/amazon](http://www.nvo.com/amazon)

**Green Seal** (Recycled content latex paint standard GS-43)

[www.greenseal.org](http://www.greenseal.org)

## Project Benefits

- 105 gallons of recycled paint were used.
- Using recycled paint saved over \$1,000 on the cost of the project. Virgin paint was \$15-20 per gallon, the recycled paint was \$5 per gallon.
- ACF was very satisfied with the performance of the recycled paint. No difference was found in the quality and consistency of the color. The paint was just as user friendly as the virgin paint they had used in the past.
- Increase in productivity, ACF found the brighter, enhanced visibility in the warehouse to be an added benefit of the project.

## About Hennepin County ACF

The Adult Corrections Facility (ACF) provides custody and programming for approximately 7,000 adult offenders a year. The ACF operates the Productive Day Program, which requires inmates to be in school or working several hours each day and employs approximately 500 offenders a year.

**BEFORE Painting:**  
*With about 10 years between paint jobs, the warehouse was grimy and filthy, but this didn't negatively impact the coverage of the recycled paint!*



For more information on Hennepin County's Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Program or the Lead by Example Incentive Fund, please contact:  
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