

Benjamin Moore & Co.

In 2004 I started at Benjamin Moore as a Senior Scientist in the Delta Lab with a 135-mile round trip commute.

Twenty-one years later:

I am a Senior Scientist in the T&I Lab, former Delta Lab with a 150-mile round trip.

In that time, I endured three compensation cuts; the freezing of my pension, denied affordable but lousy healthcare, and reduction of sick time to the absolute bare minimum allowed by New Jersey law. In fact, even though "salaried," my pay was cut by 5 days in 2025.

With success like that it's time to quit/retire.

I always hoped to have a career at Benjamin Moore, little did I know I never had one and it was just a job that paid the bills. As a Senior Scientist I was never allowed to attend a major coating show in my 21 years and only allowed to go to two regional shows. I started in 2004 at 65K, 7K less than I would have made at CIBA, and had an average increase of 3.3% per year while inflation was 2.6% per year. I'm grateful for the 0.75% over inflation, but it's nothing to write home about.

Someone will need to replace me as the Delta Lab Safety Team representative as well as the Flanders' Chemical Hygiene Officer. OSHA will be calling.

I suggest no one replaces me as the Wildones leader, or your fate will be the same as mine. It will hurt or eliminate your career.

My only worry now is how PFOS's have affected me since I worked with them here at Ben Moore, and heavily for years at Ciba-Geigy. I will be starting a blog or podcast about the dangers of PFOS and my time creating, testing and working with them. Look for it.

As a promise to myself when HR failed to help me with the healthcare debacle; I am only giving short notice. My last day will be January 30, 2026.

You can keep in touch or follow me on Facebook, LinkedIn, and my web page at www.bochnik.com.

My resignation letter will be posted on social media and my web site.

Michael Bochnik