



Disposal of Vaping Products

While information on vaping is easily found through a Google search, there seems to be less information about safe disposal of the vape pens and the vape cartridges.

In 2019 the Drug Enforcement Administration started accepting vape cartridges and even vaping devices but without lithium-ion batteries during their twice-annual National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. Most vape pens, even disposables, use lithium batteries which should only be disposed of through county hazardous waste collections to prevent possible explosions. Check with your local health department or hazardous household waste authority for proper disposal methods in your county.

Vape cartridges, empty or full, should not be thrown in the trash. Due to the high concentration of nicotine in the cartridges, handling a damaged cartridge could lead to a poisoning in a child. Instead, safe disposal of vape cartridges is as close as your local medication drop box. Many counties now have permanent medication drop boxes for the general public to drop-off their old, expired medications as well as vape cartridges (not pens) during regular business hours, year-round. Since 2015 in Onondaga County, the SNADD Program has partnered with 11 police departments plus Onondaga County Community College and SUNY Environmental School of Forestry to make medicine boxes available at their

sites for on-going collection. Most locations also house a needle kiosk for the collection of used hypodermic needles, sharps, and lancets.

For a partial list of medication drop off locations in your area visit:

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/67720.html>

or call your health department.

Reference: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/pdfs/mm6950a1-H.pdf>



Get the facts on the Cannabis Law, find health and safety information at:

<https://cannabis.ny.gov/>



Upstate Medical University

750 East Adams Street • Syracuse, NY 13210

P: 1.800.222.1222 F: 315.464.7077 W: upstatepoison.org

Vaping Facts

Vaping has become a popular trend in recent years. In 2020:

- 10.4 million people aged 12 or older (3.8 %) vaped nicotine (SAMSHA)
- 3 million high school students (19.6%) and 550,000 middle schoolers (4.7%) used e-cigarettes (CDC)



An E-cigarette is a battery-operated device that heats liquid to an aerosol for users to inhale; often resembles a pen or a computer thumb drive. Often referred to as e-cigs, vapes, vape pens, dab pens or tanks. As less odor is produced, they can be used with little notice.

For more complete information about vape pens be sure to visit:

<https://tinyurl.com/2p9c8vfp>

According to the CDC:

- Most students believe their e-cigarettes only contain flavor, no nicotine. Yet, 99% of E-cigarettes contain nicotine.
- Flavored e-cigs are used by 82.9% of all high school and middle grade students who vape.
- Some contain diacetyl, which can damage the lungs. Other chemicals are known to increase the risk of cancer.
- Vapors produced from E-cigarettes are not harmless.
- Long-term health risks, even to by-standers, are not yet fully known.
- E-cigarettes can produce less odor and therefore are used to deliver other drugs, including marijuana.
- The study reported that people ages 12 to 17 who vaped were 4.3 times more likely to use marijuana.
- The liquid in the vaping cartridges can be fatal if swallowed.

"We have already seen the devastating effects of some vaping products on the lungs and used vaping products getting into the hands of little kids. says Dr. Christine Stork, clinical director of the Upstate New York Poison Center. Even a small amount of vape juice can be toxic to a child."

In 2021, the Upstate New York Poison Center received 132 calls related to vaping. In the first 4 months of 2022, we received 176 calls. With increased availability of vaping products, we expect this trend of higher calls to continue.

BUG OFF! A more natural approach

You've got pests! While we know pests and weeds can be controlled using chemicals you may be looking for a reliable pest control method but one that does not harm the environment. Non-chemical pest control methods can work and are often effective for a longer period of time.

You may want to consider a more natural approach:

Birds, insects and other living organisms: use your pest's natural enemies to your advantage. Contact your local Cooperative Extension, garden association or nursery for information on how to attract and protect beneficial predators.

Dish soap: One of the more common household ingredients for blasting bugs is mild dish soap. You can make a spray with this kitchen staple using the proper ratio of soap to water. Too much soap can harm your plants.

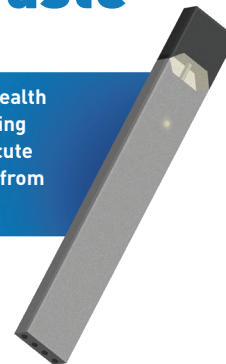
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Tips for Safe Disposal of E-Cigarettes and E-Liquid Waste



Discarded e-cigarettes, batteries and cartridges can pose a threat to human health and to the environment if they are not disposed of properly. Nicotine, including nicotine salt, is listed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as an acute hazardous waste.¹ The following are best practices and information compiled from state departments of health and public health nonprofit organizations.



Best Practices for Safe Disposal:

- Check with your state and local environmental agencies for rules and guidance about e-cigarette and e-liquid waste disposal.
- Turn off the device and remove the rechargeable battery before disposal. If the device isn't yours, have the user do this.
- Store all items—especially rechargeable batteries—in a cool, temperature-controlled environment and in a container that is sealed and clearly labeled for hazardous waste.
- Never throw rechargeable batteries into the trash. Keep them in a separate container for hazardous waste.
- Deliver the sealed container of e-cigarette waste to a local hazardous waste facility at least every 90 days.
- Do not rinse e-cigarette items, such as spent cartridges, to remove the liquid nicotine residue. That water will become hazardous waste, and you will need to store and dispose of the water properly.
- Handle used and discarded cartridges carefully to avoid unintentional exposure to unused nicotine. Do not throw them away in the regular trash.
- Always be careful handling products. Liquid nicotine can be absorbed through the skin and cause accidental poisoning.



CENTER FOR TOBACCO PRODUCTS

References:

(1) EPA opinion letter on e-liquid as hazardous waste: <https://icrapublic.epa.gov/files/14850.pdf>

CTP-163

WARNING DO NOT FILL ABOVE THE LINE



FDA

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Vinegar: using a simple vinegar solution at the base of your plant helps repel and kill insects such as slugs, moths and ants. Avoid using vinegar with a concentration higher than 20% acid, as found in some industrial-strength vinegars.

Garlic or chili pepper: While both can provide flavor to your meal, both help fight off aphids, ants, beetles, caterpillars and slugs. You can purchase concentrated sprays at your local garden center, or make your own.

Buddy planting: Consider planting marigolds, onions, garlic, petunias, chrysanthemums and alyssum in your garden; all act as natural insect repellents.

Manual methods: Hand-pick weeds and pests from your plants; use a flyswatter; mulch to reduce weed growth and set traps to control rats, mice and other rodents. All are effective ways to help your garden thrive.



If non-chemical methods fail and you decide to use chemical insecticides, herbicides, fertilizers or pesticides, here are some general tips for safe use:

- Read the label and choose the right product for the task. Consult an expert with questions.
- Only purchase the amount needed. Storing chemicals can turn into a poisoning.
- Follow directions closely.
- Apply the product safely (i.e., wear protective clothing, avoid application when windy, wash hands/clothing after use).
- Store and dispose of chemicals properly.

Contact the Upstate New York Poison Control Center (1-800-222-1222) in event of exposure or for more information about using these products safely.

Resources:

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-incidents/pesticide-safety-tips>, May 2022

<http://npic.orst.edu/>, May 2022

<https://www.upstate.edu/poison/>, May 2022

New online training...for anyone who wants to teach poison safety to others

Poison Prevention Training for Teachers contains:

- Teacher's Guide – 80-page guide (available for download)
- Look Alike Flipchart, photos of poisonous products that can easily be confused with food products.

Each Lesson in the Teacher's Guide contains:

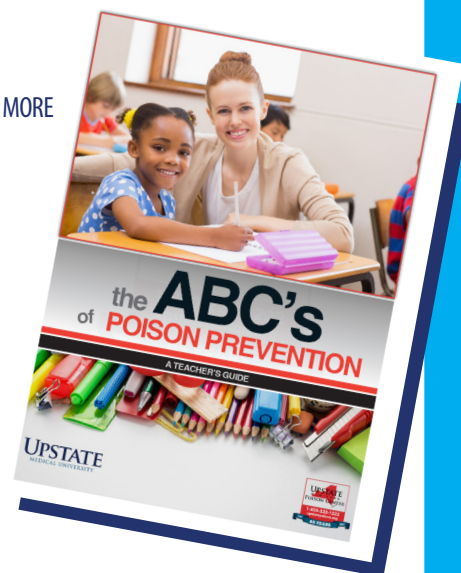
- Objectives for the lesson
- Teaching tools listed (with links to locations) for each lesson
- Audio Visual materials
- Activity sheets
- Poison Center brochures, telephone stickers/magnets and MORE
- Step by step lessons
- Reinforcement materials

Upon completion of Poison Prevention Training for Teachers – order materials on our FREE MATERIALS page:

- Brochures
- Magnets
- Stickers + more

Everything you need to teach can be found here:

URL: <https://www.upstate.edu/poison/community/train.php>



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