

A TOXIC PROBLEM:

Addressing the Burden of Hazardous Vape Waste on Schools

Vape products are acute hazardous waste and Utah law requires schools to follow proper disposal procedures. These products contain liquid nicotine or nicotine residue and may contain lithium batteries, which can harm the environment and human health. **IT IS NOT SAFE to put liquid nicotine down the drain and IT IS NOT SAFE to put cartridges or pods, used or unused, in the garbage.**

OUR SCHOOLS ARE BURDENED WITH SAFELY DISPOSING OF VAPE PRODUCTS CONFISCATED FROM UNDERAGE STUDENTS.

Based on the amount of confiscated vape products (liquid nicotine, cartridges, pods and empty containers that held nicotine liquids), your school will be classified under state and federal law as either:

VERY SMALL QUANTITY GENERATOR (VSQG)

generates <1 kg or 2.2 lbs per month



LARGE QUANTITY GENERATOR (LQG)

generates >1 kg or 2.2 lbs per month



HANDLING VAPE WASTE

These are just some of the procedures schools have to follow to ensure these products are disposed of properly and don't pose further risk to human and environmental health.



Keep a spill kit stocked with binders (sand/diatomaceous/earth/sawdust) and gloves nearby.



Keep a log of the amount of waste as it is collected, and make arrangements with a transporter and disposal company to pick up the waste BEFORE you accumulate the max limit (e.g. 1kg for VSQG).



Have a Safety Data Sheet for e-liquids available (this can be found via an internet search).



Store lithium ion batteries away from heat and direct sunlight. Prevent terminals from touching by storing each battery in a plastic bag or by covering the terminals.



Using gloves, place the e-liquids, cartridges, and pods in a container that is in good condition and has a lid that can be securely closed. Label the container with the words "Hazardous Waste Nicotine," and "Danger - Toxic in contact with skin."



Place damaged lithium ion batteries in a plastic bag and then place the bag in an inert material like sand. Lithium ion batteries that have an odor, are discolored, deformed, bulging, or swollen are damaged and have the potential to catch fire when they absorb moisture.



UTAH DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
**WASTE MANAGEMENT
& RADIATION CONTROL**

**Please visit our website
to learn more about
proper disposal at
<https://bit.ly/30XIXxd>.**



**Learn more about
the dangers of vaping
at seethroughthevape.org.**