

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.



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References:

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

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