



Dakota County Vape Disposal Program



Overview

Vaping Devices

School Survey

Safe Storage

Device Reporting

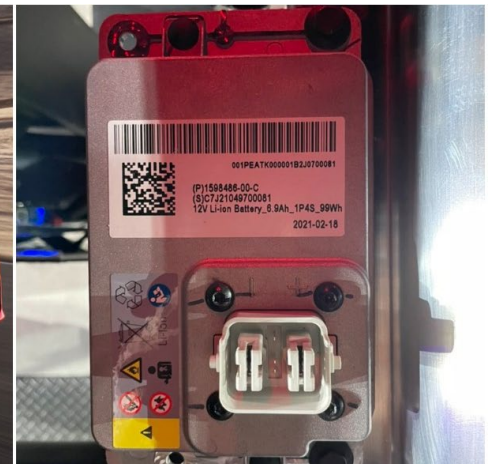
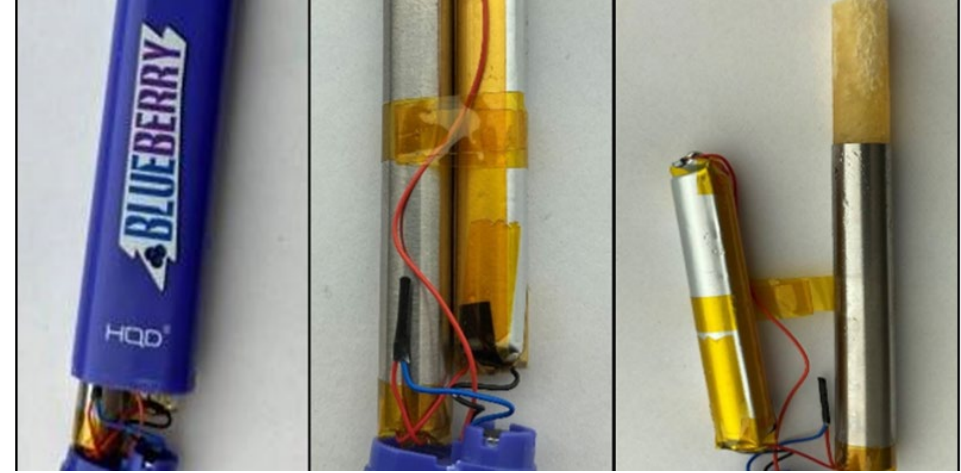
Disposal Process

Know Your Current Process

Next Steps

Vape Devices not for your trash or recycling.

- Regulated hazardous waste
 - Nicotine can be absorbed through the skin
 - Lithium-ion batteries are toxic and can catch fire when damaged
- Dakota County landfills and recycling facilities
- 5 vape devices thrown away every second in the U.S.
 - 150 million vape devices a year
 - Combined lithium for 6,000 Tesla vehicle batteries



The Evolution of E-cigarettes



Vape Devices



Spring '22 Survey Results

- Dakota County School Survey (sent to all schools)
- Results revealed Dakota County Schools not properly disposing of vape devices

Survey Quotes:

- *"... I have crushed them with a hammer and disposed of them in the dumpster."*
- *"Typically these go into the garbage."*
- *"We put them in the trash."*

Vape Disposal Kit Supplies

- 47 Kits distributed to schools
- Vape Disposal Box with protective material - *One per school*
- Nitrile or latex gloves - *Keep a few pairs near box*
- Clear, sealable baggies - *Keep a few bags near box*



Safe Storage

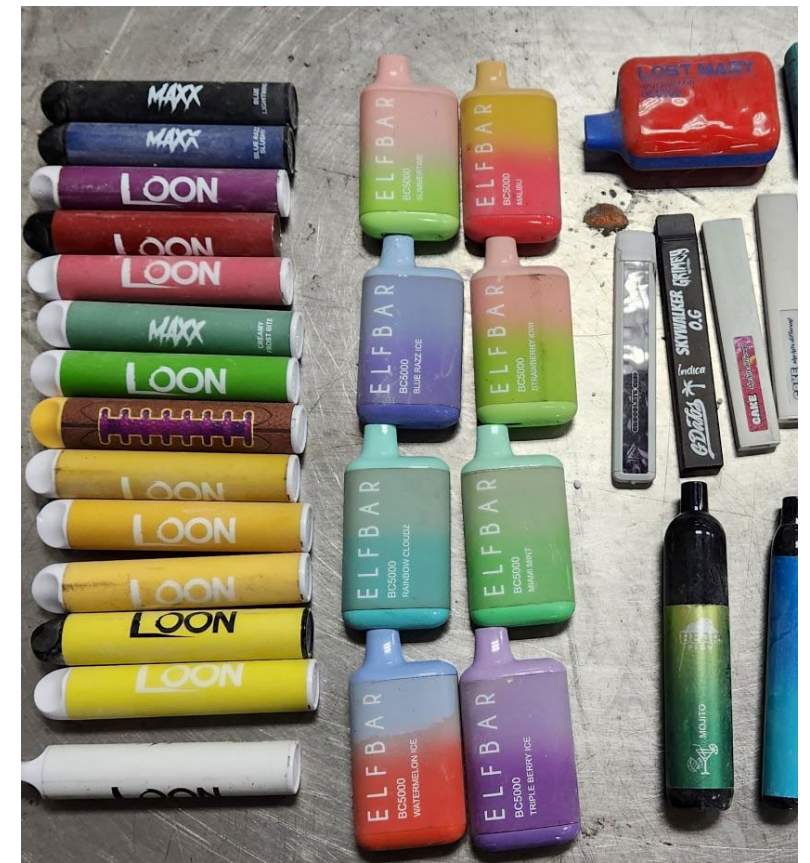
- Use the vape disposal box to collect, contain items and prevent risk of exposure and fires.
- Use gloves to limit your exposure to harmful chemicals.
- Liquid nicotine can be absorbed through the skin and cause accidental poisoning.
- Turn off devices to prevent fires if there is an on/off option.
- Bury vape device in protective material inside box.
- Secure lid and keep box in a locked administrative office.



The Process for Disposal


- When the box is full and at the end of the school year, an appointment is scheduled through the [Dakota County Very Small Quantity Generator program](#) for proper disposal at The Recycling Zone in Eagan.
- **Disposal fees are waived for school collected vaping devices.**
- The collection box is brought to your scheduled appointment, emptied and given back for continued use.





To Date:

6 Schools dropped off 280 vape devices and \$304 savings in disposal costs



Know your current school process for vape disposal

Who is the primary school contact for vape disposal?

Where are vape devices collected?

Share your knowledge with other staff.



FAQs

- **Should the battery be removed from the vape device?**
 - No, it can be dangerous trying to remove the battery. Leave the battery inside and the whole vape device will be managed properly.
- **What should I do with my THC vapes?**
 - Vapes containing THC should be brought to your local police department for proper disposal. If you are unable to tell if your device is a nicotine or THC vape, place it in the vape disposal collection box.
- **Who is allowed to transport vape devices on behalf of my school to The Recycling Zone for proper disposal?**
 - A school designated staff person is allowed to transport devices after making a VSQG appointment.
- **I have disposal questions regarding other hazardous waste or problem materials at my school. Who do I contact?**
 - We appreciate your interest in managing all materials properly. Please email recyclingzone@co.dakota.mn.us with your school name and question.

Questions? Concerns?

For more information, visit
www.dakotacounty.us, search *vape disposal*

Kristi Otterson, Household Hazardous Waste Program Manager

952-891-7547

kristi.otterson@co.dakota.mn.us

Matt Drugg, Assistant Principal Simley High School

651-306-7008

druggm@isd199.org