

Tobacco Product Waste

Guidance for Colorado Schools on the proper
Storage and Disposal of Nicotine Waste

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Agenda

- Backstory
- School Guidance Document
- Case Studies
- Checklist

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Backstory

- Hazardous Waste Facility receiving products from the public.
- Schools were confiscating products and didn't know what to do with them.
- In addition to other negative environmental impacts, the devices pose a fire risk if not disposed of properly



Photo Credit: Atlanta Hazardous Waste Authority, NJ

Photo Credit: John D. ... Tobacco Products

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<p>The Purpose</p> <p>Keep schools safe from hazardous Nicotine waste materials found in vape/electronic smoking devices and e-liquid</p>	<p>The Why</p> <p>The use of electronic nicotine devices/vapes by youth is a serious health concern and a disruption to learning.</p> <p>Proper disposal of confiscated electronic nicotine devices/vapes can reduce the risk of nicotine exposure on school grounds.</p>
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Key Messages of the Document

Never place nicotine containing waste in the typical trash. These items are harmful to the environment when disposed incorrectly!

Waste containing any concentration of nicotine is considered acutely hazardous as it only takes a small amount of nicotine to be lethal for a human or small animal.

Do Not disable/Disassemble any Electronic Smoking Device

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School Guidance Document



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How...

- > **Collecting** nicotine waste in containers made of, or lined with, materials which will not react with, and that will be compatible with, the hazardous waste collected.
- > **Labeling** or marking containers with the words "Hazardous Waste".
- > **Storing** containers in a safe place and in a manner that avoids leaks until they can be properly disposed of.
- > Keeping **storage limits** to less than 2.2 pounds of Nicotine waste.
- > **Sending containers** to an off-site facility authorized by Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to manage hazardous waste.

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Examples of Waste that should be disposed of properly in the appropriate containers:

- > Vaping liquid that contains nicotine.
- > E-cigarettes (i.e. Puff Bar, Juul, Vuse or Mod type) whether used or not, unless the vaping liquid reservoirs have been removed.
- > E-cigarette cartridges (i.e. Juul pod) that held nicotine-containing vaping liquid, even if they look empty.
- > Vaping liquid spill and cleanup materials.

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Nicotine-containing waste and e-waste disposal facilities

Boulder County Hazardous Materials Management Facility 10901c 63rd Street, Boulder Co. (720) 564-2251	Pitkin County Solid Waste Center 32046 Jack Gredig Lane Aspen, CO 81611 (970)429-2880
Eagle County Solid Waste and Recycling 815 Ute Creek Road, CO 81655 (970) 328-3470	Rooney Road Recycling 151 S Rooney Rd. Golden, CO 80401 (303) 316-6262
Larimer County 5887 S. Taft Hill Road Fort Collins, CO 80526 (970) 226-1101	Weld County 5500 State Hwy 52 Erie, CO 80516 (970) 304-6475 ext.2226
Mesa County Hazardous Waste Collection Facility 3071 US-50 Grand Junction, CO 81503 970.256.9543	

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Frequently Asked Questions

My community does not have a waste facility listed. Who do I contact?	Contact the CDPHE Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division.
Where can I get a safe storage container?	Contact a hazardous waste vendor.
What should I do with non-nicotine containing e-liquid/e-cigarette devices?	Consider all devices, components and vaping liquid as a hazardous waste to ensure safety and proper disposal.
Who pays for the cost of storage and disposal?	Schools that are unable to pay for proper disposal should contact the local public health department and Hazardous Waste Recycling facilities to discuss cost-sharing or cost-cutting strategies.
Can I give devices back to parents/guardians?	Refer to your district's Tobacco Free Schools Policy and related policies for confiscation procedures. Never return confiscated devices containing nicotine to students.

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What should I do about other waste from these devices and components?	Batteries from these devices are considered a "Universal" waste and should be managed in a way to prevent releases to the environment. Please do not attempt to disable/disassemble any Electronic Smoking Device.
How do I collect and stay under 2.2lbs of devices, components or e-liquid?	Example: With the proper container weigh out 2.2lbs of devices, components and e-liquid (total weight)
Are schools required to follow these guidelines?	No, but these guidelines keep your school safe from hazardous waste.
Should we confiscate devices if they are hazardous waste?	Refer to your district's Tobacco Free Schools Policy and related policies for confiscation procedures. The state does encourage confiscating these devices, if allowed by your district's policies.
I am unsure if a device/product contains nicotine?	If you are unsure whether a device contains nicotine or is hazardous, place it into the designated container.
Where can I get help designing a safe disposal model?	Contact your local public health department for best practice approaches.

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Questions & Answers

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Case Studies/Examples

Jefferson County
Mesa
Summit
Boulder

- Engagement
- Critical partners
- Implementation logistics
- Lessons learned

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Jefferson County

- **Engaging the district** - 2018 - response to concern from schools about the materials
 - Asked us for guidance
- **Critical Partnerships** - 2019
 - Building level: Nurses and aides, discipline admins, SROs
 - District level: Environmental Services
 - PHEH connections with vendors/hazardous waste folks
 - Communications team - inform and support
- **Implementation Logistics**
- **Lessons Learned (or emerging)**
 - Proactive - bring usable resources and supports; help with adaptations
 - Connect to other TFS efforts (education, family engagement, RP)
 - Data collection/sharing
 - Convene a team include youth, PH partners, municipal partners



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Mesa County



- **Engaging your district**- The starting place for us was in the review of the district's enforcement of tobacco free school policies. This conversation went from enforcement to disposal/storage.
- **Critical Partnerships**- Started with connecting with the Environmental Services Director for our school district, and the county's Hazardous Waste Collection Site.
- **Implementation Logistics**- While the district policies were being updated the conversation with the districts environmental services division began. Partnership with Mesa County Hazardous Waste Collection Facility was key because a vape-waste take back location somewhere else would make that location a "waste generator" and require fees based on amount taken. Paired this with a #stopvapewaste media campaign informing community where to take waste.
- **Lessons Learned** - TBD ☺

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Summit County

- > **Engaging your district-** Coalition Breckenridge, Frisco, Silverthorne, Keystone, Dillon
- > **Critical Partnerships-** Recreational centers
- > **Implementation Logistics-** planned and supported by county-level Coalition
- > **Lessons Learned**



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Boulder

Engaging School District: Started with Wellness Specialist and School Nurses

Critical Partnerships: Hazardous Materials Management Facility and Environmental Services as School District

Implementation: Provide materials such as bins, gloves, bags, and labels. Educational resources such as flyers or palm cards about vape disposal.

Lessons Learned: Education on the issue is key. The majority of people don't know that vape devices are hazardous waste.



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Panel



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State Workgroup Members

- › Rachel Freeman
- › Donna Viverette
- › Katie Lazar
- › Becky Peltier
- › Eric Brodell
- › Wendy Morrison
- › David Foster
- › Wolfgang Kray
- › Michael Bankoff
- › Kyra Hill

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Checklist/Questions for implementation

- Tangible items to think about to collect waste
- Education Materials development
- Determining Cost
- Supporting the development of a protocol
- Engaging partners/Key Champions

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