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Bring it back: How to dispose of e-cigarettes correctly and free of charge

Every e-cigarette contains a battery, making "vapes" electronic devices that must be recycled properly. They contain valuable resources but also hazardous materials that can harm the environment if disposed of incorrectly. Read here to find out how and where to dispose of your used or empty e-cigarettes at no cost.



The Vape Recycling Bag is a new recycling bag specifically for e-cigarettes. It can be found at e-cigarette retail locations and now, it can also be ordered directly to your home free of charge: [Order form](#)

12.11.2024 – Did you know that each e-cigarette, even disposable ones that taste like watermelon, salted caramel, or menthol, contains a small lithium-ion battery? When vapes are discarded on the ground or thrown away, these batteries can ignite under pressure in the trash collection, and nicotine or other harmful substances can be released into the environment.

Valuable resources for the electronics industry

E-cigarettes contain not only hazardous materials but also many valuable resources, including aluminum, lithium, and cobalt, which are used to make various electronic devices we use daily: smartwatches, laptops, tablets, mobile phones, hearing aids, or electric car batteries. By recycling e-cigarettes like other electronic devices, you help ensure that these resources are returned to the production cycle and reused to make new devices.

Return e-cigarettes to retailers or the nearest collection points

The best way to dispose of your empty e-cigarettes is by returning them to the store where they were purchased or any shop that sells e-cigarettes. Kiosks also accept all types of e-cigarettes, including batteries, for free, even if no new device is purchased. Alternatively, you can drop off your e-cigarettes free of charge at a public electronics collection points, which you can locate on the interactive [Recycling Map](#).

New: convenient disposal by post

Consumers can now also order the convenient Vape Recycling Bag directly to their homes for disposing of empty e-cigarettes: [Order Form](#). With the Vape Recycling Bag, consumers can collect their empty or defective vapes and mail them for recycling. Here's how it works:



Free disposal through the advanced recycling fee (ARC)

E-cigarette disposal is free for all residents, as with other electronic devices, consumers in Switzerland pay a recycling fee at the time of purchase. This advanced recycling contribution (ARC) is currently 10 cents for disposable and reusable e-cigarettes with a battery and 5 cents for those without. For more information, visit www.vape-recycler.ch

Why vapes don't belong in battery collection bins

Vapes are often mistakenly discarded in battery collection bins, but this is incorrect. E-cigarettes contain more than just a battery; the mouthpiece, plastic casing, and heating coil (coil) can all be separated and reprocessed during recycling. The materials in the batteries, in particular, are reintroduced into the supply chain at a purity level of up to 98%. Therefore, defective e-cigarettes, like electric toothbrushes, blenders, or smartwatches, should be returned to stores or electronics recycling facilities. This ensures that e-cigarettes are recycled smoothly: [How Switzerland recycles e-cigarettes](#)