

Vape and E-cigarette Disposal for Parents



Legal and safe disposal of vapes and e-cigarettes for schools is **expensive**. Schools can be fined thousands of dollars if vapes are found in trash or recycling bins because they are a **multi-type hazardous waste subject to complex regulations**. The devices pose health, safety, fire, explosion, and environmental risks to students and staff.

What parents should NOT do with these devices:

- Don't pour, rinse, or wash liquids out
- Don't put any components in trash or recycling bins
- Don't use medicine disposal kiosks or DEA take-back days

Did you know?
Vapes and e-cigarettes are illegal to sell in many parts of San Mateo County.
[Ordinance No. 4878](#)

Safety, Storage, and Disposal

- Put each device in a separate, clear, zip-top bag (helps prevent battery fires/explosions, liquid leaks)
- Place devices in a leak-proof, sturdy, clear plastic container with a lid
- Store the container in a location inaccessible to minors
- Dispose of the device as household hazardous waste - see reverse



Wear gloves!

Hazardous Waste 101

What is hazardous waste?

- Hazardous waste is toxic, corrosive, flammable, or reactive based on its chemical properties
- It can be harmful or dangerous to humans, animals, and the environment
- Hazardous products contain a signal word indicating the level of toxicity, a hazard statement alerting to potential harms, and a hazard pictogram (some examples below)
- If the label states "caution", "warning", "danger", or "poison"— it's hazardous

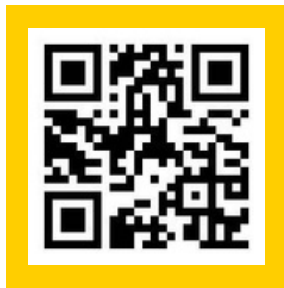


Household Hazardous Waste at Home?

Attend a free drop-off event!

Appointments are available every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday in San Mateo, with select Saturdays offered in other San Mateo County cities.

Book your appointment:
smchealth.org/hhw-appt
(650) 372-6200



All who live in San Mateo County are welcome.



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Cessation and Prevention Resources

- San Mateo County's Tobacco Prevention Program:
smchealth.org/smoke-free-san-mateo-county
- San Mateo County's Tobacco Education Coalition:
smchealth.org/general-information/tobacco-education-coalition