

# Vape Recycling

Vapes don't disappear in a puff of smoke



# Introduction

## The problem

Every week, an estimated **8.2 million vapes** are thrown away or improperly recycled in the UK.

### This results in:



#### Finite resources lost:

Lithium, Cobalt, Nickel and Copper are all found in vapes. Annually, enough lithium is discarded to power 10,127 electric vehicles.



#### Fire hazards:

Battery fires from improperly disposed vapes and other electronics have risen by 71% in the last year, causing over 1,200 waste fires across the UK.



#### Increased pollution:

Significant long-term environmental damage due to plastic waste, hazardous nicotine leakage, and battery contamination.

# The Legislation: Your Responsibilities

## Who's Affected and When?

From **1st June 2025**, the **single-use vapes ban comes into effect**, and it will be illegal to:

- Sell, offer for sale, or possess for sale single-use vapes (in store or online), regardless of whether it contains nicotine.
- Retailers, importers, wholesalers, and manufacturers must comply across England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

#### A vape is banned if:

- ⊗ It's rechargeable but not refillable.
- ⊗ It's refillable but not rechargeable.

#### A vape is not considered rechargeable if:

- ⊗ It has a non-rechargeable battery.
- ⊗ It has a coil that cannot be easily replaced.

#### A vape is not considered refillable if:

- ⊗ It has a pre-filled pod, cartridge, or tank that cannot be replaced or refilled.

**Failure to comply with this legislation could result in penalties, enforcement action, and reputational damage.**

# The Regulations: Your Responsibilities

## Your Compliance Obligations

Under the WEEE Regulations, vape retailers have a legal responsibility to:

### Record & Report

Track and report vape sales and returns to ensure compliance and environmental responsibility.

### Take-Back Scheme

Provide customers with an easy way to return used vapes, such as in-store collection.

### Proper Disposal

Ensure collected vapes are recycled through authorised facilities to prevent pollution and recover valuable materials like lithium.

**Failure to comply with this legislation could result in penalties, enforcement action, and reputational damage.**

# Reconomy Connect's Vape Recycling Solutions

Reconomy Connect recognises the growing environmental challenges posed by disposable and reusable vapes. That's why we've established a comprehensive vape recycling service across the UK.



### Secure Storage

We provide a range of storage containers designed for safe and compliant vape collection.



### Hassle-Free Collection

Once full, we arrange on-site collection at your convenience.



### Responsible Disposal

Vapes are processed and recycled in the most environmentally friendly way possible, ensuring compliance with WEEE regulations.

Please note: service coverage is currently not available in Ireland



# How it works

Type	Capacity	Dimensions (mm)
Counter Tub	5L (100 vapes)	213(D) x 196(H)
Counter Tub	10L (200 vapes)	290(D) x 220(H)
Vape Box	16L (250 vapes)	380(L) x 280(W) x 210(H)
Plastic Tube	20L (400 vapes)	310(D) x 830(H)
UN Barrel	30L (600 vapes)	310(D) x 520(H)
UN Barrel	60L (1,200 vapes)	398(D) x 620(H)
UN Barrel	120L (2,400 vapes)	498(D) x 800(H)



## Counter Tubs

- Ideal for customer-facing return points for convenient take-back.
- Once full, waste can be transferred into a larger container for collection.

## Vape Box

- Compact option with tamper-evident closures.
- Suitable for smaller businesses or locations with moderate vape return volumes.

## Plastic Tube

- Clear rigid design allows visibility of contents.
- Good for offices and retail spaces wanting to monitor waste levels easily.

## UN Barrels

- Durable and compliant: best suited for centralised waste storage and bulk collection.
- Larger barrels reduce frequency of collection, ideal for distribution centres or multi-site retailers.

# Vermiculite

For added safety during storage and transport, vermiculite can be used as a protective, fire-resistant filler. This is especially useful when handling end-of-life vapes containing lithium-ion batteries. Reconomy Connect can supply this in 100L sacks and recommend a 60/40 ratio of vapes to vermiculite.

## Benefits of using vermiculite:

- **Fire suppression** – Minimises battery fire risk during transit.
- **Leak absorption** – Absorbs any potential leakage from damaged vapes.
- **Shock protection** – Cushions vapes to prevent damage from movement.
- **Supports best practice** – Demonstrates commitment to safe storage.
- **Insurance peace of mind** – Aligns with some insurers' fire and environmental liability requirements.





# How it works

A simple four-step process to recycle vapes

## Choose



Order your Reconomy Connect vape recycling container by calling [01952 292 000](tel:01952292000) or emailing your customer services team: [biservice@reconomyconnect.com](mailto:biservice@reconomyconnect.com)

## Fill



Collect used and banned single-use vapes to fill up your container. Once full, give us a call so we can arrange a convenient collection.

## Collect



Our ADR-registered partner will collect your vapes and leave you with an empty container ready for reuse.

## Recycle



We'll transport the vapes to a specialist recycling facility, where we manage over 80% recovery of materials.



# The Recycling Process



## Collect

- Vapes are placed in Reconomy Connect containers.
- When full, the container is collected and transported to a recycling facility.



## Sort

- Vapes are sorted by brand and type.
- Batch processing can then be applied.



## Process

- End caps are removed, and contents are ejected.
- Plastics, metals, and electronics are processed separately.



## Recycle

- Extracted materials are sent for reuse in manufacturing.
- Batteries are sent to ABTO / ABE for recycling.



## Incinerate

- Wicks, filters, and nicotine components are incinerated, as per The Environment Agency's requirements.



# Retailer Responsibility: Educating Customers

Many vape users are unaware of the environmental impact of improper disposal. In fact, 77% of UK vape users feel there is not enough information on how to recycle vapes.

As a retailer, you can play a key role in to help customer learn to responsibly recycle their devices through:

- Vape recycling point in a prominent location in-store.
- In-store signage to encourage proper disposal.
- Train staff to answer customer questions about vape recycling.
- Include a dedicated section on your website about vape recycling, providing instructions and resources for customers.

**undamaged items only**  
please ensure all e-liquid is removed prior to recycling





**vapes**



You are responsible for any loss/damage suffered by you or any 3<sup>rd</sup> party in relation to the collection and storage of e-cigarette and vapes in this container whilst on your premises and under your control.







[www.reconomyconnect.com](http://www.reconomyconnect.com)