

# The Vape Vessel



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Let's reduce e-waste together, recycle your vape!

### Introduction

Sales of vapes have rocketed over the last couple of years, with a new generation of non-smokers now using vapes as a socially accepted part of leisure time. Initially designed to help smokers to quit the habit, approximately 500 million vapes are purchased in the UK each year, of which an estimated 168 million are disposable (single use) vapes.

The majority of vape and e-cigarettes are currently being disposed of via a general waste route when they reach end of life, rather than via an approved electrical recycling route. This equates to two single use vapes being binned as general waste every second, resulting in a significant volume being sent via the non compliant route to landfill. According to a recent study by Truth Initiative, over 50% of people reported that they don't know how to properly dispose of these devices.

#### Who are Waste Experts?

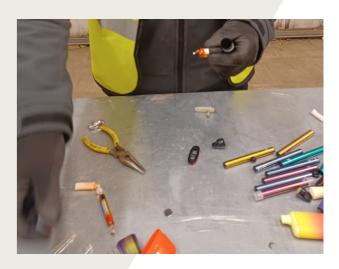
Waste Experts are the UK's most forward-thinking waste management specialist. We have an unrivalled nationwide offering with exceptional customer service and environmental compliance at the heart of our business. We have been operating in the environmental services sector for over 22 years and pride ourselves on developing innovative practices to support our customers sustainability goals.

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**How can Waste Experts help?** 

As members of the UK Vaping Industry Association (UKVIA), Waste Experts are leading the way by offering a unique service offering to support the entire vaping industry. We offer compliance support to producers and distributors of vapes, through our Producer Compliance Scheme, WERCS. Waste Experts also offer a UK wide collection and treatment service for all types of vapes and e-cigarettes, including our exclusive container solution for safe storage and transportation of waste vapes.







# Why are discarded vapes such an issue?





Incorrect disposal of vapes can cause a whole host of environmental issues. Considering vapes are made from robust plastics and heavy metals plus the nicotine and the lithium battery element within, there have been many concerns they aren't the most environmentally friendly option out there.

#### **Correct Vape Disposal**

Vapes can cause environmental damage through widespread littering, this endangers wildlife and can present a high risk of fire due to the volatile nature of the battery within. The batteries used in vapes contain lithium which is a vital component for electric car batteries and energy storage batteries. These batteries also contain aluminium, steel, copper, and plastics which if correctly recycled can save our limited natural resources from being overmined.

As well as the environmental impact of mining the materials required to create batteries in the first place, the devices that get disposed of in general rubbish bins are commonly taken to landfill sites. When batteries begin to degrade in landfills, harmful chemicals such as lead, cadmium,

zinc, mercury, and - of course - lithium can leach into the ground, which causes soil and water pollution. When these chemicals contaminate the soil and water, then animals, humans, and the environment are all at risk of harm.

Aside from the batteries, the e-liquid contained in vapes contains nicotine, which is classified as an acute hazardous waste. Improper storage and disposal of vapes may lead to unintentional exposure and accidental nicotine poisoning, as the hazardous substances can leak out and cause soil and water contamination, also harming wildlife and human health.



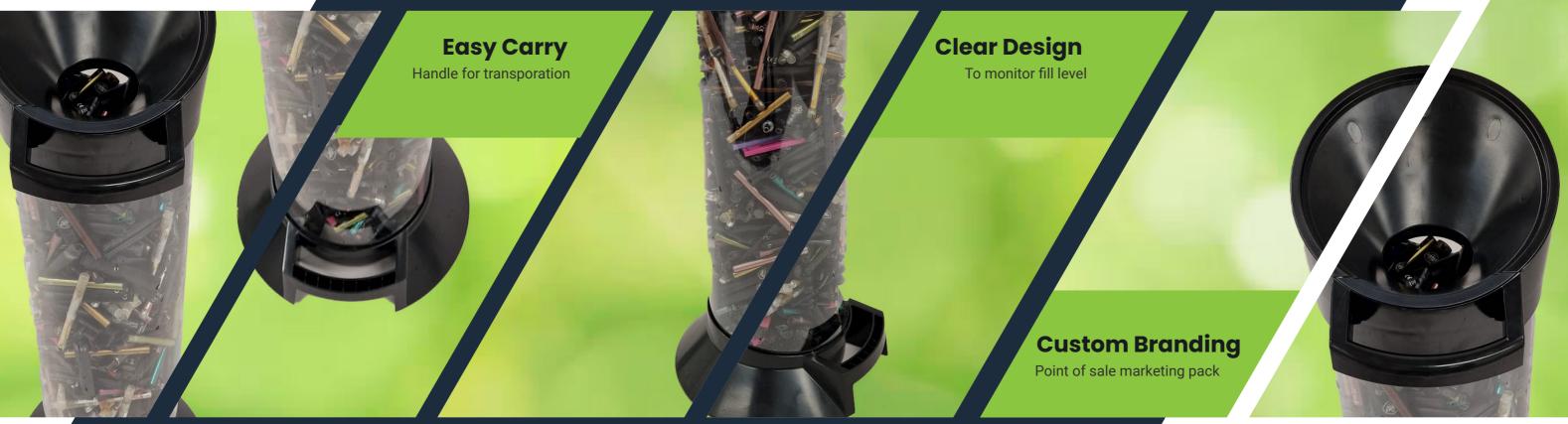








## Our Vape Vessel



The Vape Vessel is a simple and convenient container solution for responsible storage of discarded vapes and e-cigarettes, prior to onward collection and recycling.

The Vape Vessel is the perfect solution for all types of businesses that are looking to improve their recycling rates, reduce the amount of vapes being disposed of in general waste and mitigate the risk to the environment through batteries fires or improper disposal.

The Vape Vessel safely holds around 12kgs of mixed vapes, which equates to around 750 units of varying sizes. The container is easy carriable within manual handling guidelines and has a very professional image, so you can confidently display your container

in a location which ensures it is utilised effectively.

Waste Experts offer the unique option of having point of sale marketing materials, which can help promote your company ethos and demonstrate your commitment to environmental sustainability. We work in partnership with all of our customers to maximise recycling opportunities and improve their environmental performance.

Once your Vape Vessel has reached capacity, Waste Experts will quickly and effectively collect your old container and replace with a new one. Vapes are classed as hazardous waste, but you can rest assured that Waste Experts have an ADR licensed fleet to safely transport the materials back to our vape recycling facility.





# Our Recyling Process

Waste Experts state of the art Approved Authorised Treatment Facility (AATF) in Huddersfield is fully permitted and licensed to compliantly recycle all types of vapes and e-cigarettes. The composition of these materials makes mechanical processing impractical, however Waste Experts have an unrivalled recycling process for this waste stream and are already recycling and recovering tonnes of materials from the vapes we collect each day.

There are a vast range of vape types, including single use (disposable) and rechargeable devices that have either a single use chamber, or a refillable tank. Waste Experts are fully equipped to handle all types of vapes, making our vape recycling solution even more accessible and simple to use without the requirement for unnecessary segregation.

Our nationwide fleet of vehicles, ranging from a van to an articulated lorry (and every size in between), means we have the largest and most flexible coverage in the industry and can collect vapes from any UK location. Whether you are an independent vape store, a large high street retailer or a manufacturer of vapes, Waste Experts can help keep your business compliant.







A plastic and / or glass and / or metal casing



A heating element



A micropocessor switch and an LED





A lithiumion battery (rechargeable or not)





A mouthpiece that activates the device





eLiquid





### Contact

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