

## WHAT ARE THEY?

Vapes, also known as e-cigarettes, are a common replacement for tobacco smoking. They work by heating a liquid, which is then inhaled as a vapour.

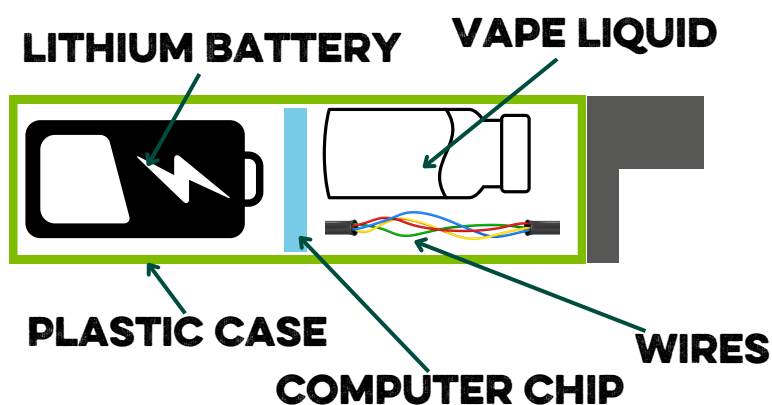
Single use vapes have become a considerable litter issue, posing new risks to volunteers and council waste collection operatives. You and your volunteers are likely to come across them (whole or in parts) during your litter picks. They come in a wide variety of colours and are often shaped like a pen.



## HAZARDS

The diagram to the right shows the contents of a vape:

- The chemical contents of vape liquid is largely unknown; it may cause skin irritation.
- Lithium batteries are unstable, and if damaged have the potential to cause fires or explode.
- Some imported vapes will not meet regulation standards in terms of contents and safety.



## HANDLING GUIDANCE

### DO

- Always wear gloves and use a litter picker
- Keep them separate during your pick - put them in a bucket or plastic bag
- At the end of the litter pick place all collected vapes into a separate, clearly marked bag. Leave this alongside other waste to be collected by the local authority, letting them know you've left a bag of vapes, which are hazardous waste electrics (WEEE)
- Make sure all of your volunteers understand the hazards, and the above procedure

### NEVER

- Take them home or stockpile / store them (even outside!)
- Place in electronic recycling bins, litter bins, or your own bin at home
- Transport them in a private vehicle

### ALTERNATIVELY

- Note the location of vapes or e-cigarettes using #What3Words, and report to your local council