# UK to ban single-use vape pens from June 2025 amid environmental and youth health concerns



The United Kingdom is poised to implement a significant ban on single-use vape pens starting June 1, 2025, in a move aimed at curbing the environmental damage and public health concerns associated with disposable e-cigarettes. This decision has garnered attention across various sectors, as the ban addresses both the ecological footprint of these products and their increasing popularity among younger demographics.

According to local authorities, single-use vapes pose considerable environmental risks. As Councilor Iskandar Jefferies pointed out to The Reading Chronicle, “They are a waste of valuable resources and are often discarded improperly, releasing harmful substances into the environment and posing fire hazards in landfills and in waste removal vehicles.” The alarm raised over the improper disposal of approximately 8.2 million disposable vapes each week is indicative of a broader issue; this staggering number translates to a vape disposed of every 13 seconds, highlighting the urgent need for regulatory action.

The impending ban will encompass both in-store and online sales, leaving intact the availability of rechargeable and reusable vape pens. This transition has raised concerns among local businesses, particularly as the UK vape market is projected to generate approximately $4.2 billion in sales by 2025. Jefferies acknowledged that the forthcoming ban will impact annual revenues for many establishments, urging them to prepare for the shift by properly managing existing stock before the deadline.

The environmental hazards presented by single-use vapes extend beyond mere litter; these devices are predominantly made from non-biodegradable materials and often contain lithium, which can leak toxic substances into the ecosystem. The government’s decision is further supported by a report from Material Focus, which found that while 20% of consumers recycled their vapes in storefronts during 2024, hundreds of millions are still expected to end up in landfills.

The legislative push to ban single-use vapes also coincides with broader public health concerns. In recent years, the uptick of vaping among young populations—particularly among 11 to 17-year-olds—has prompted scrutiny. Reports indicate that by 2023, 20% of individuals in this age group had experimented with vaping, a trend that has alarmed health advocates. Circular Economy Minister Mary Creagh has emphasised the need to balance public health imperatives with environmental stewardship, arguing that it is imperative to stem both wastefulness and youth addiction.

In light of the restrictions, the vaping industry has expressed its concerns, fearing that such measures could inadvertently push consumers towards illicit products as alternatives. The industry has called for enhanced enforcement of existing regulations rather than sweeping bans. Notably, Belgium has already taken a similar step as the first EU country to outlaw disposable vapes, reflecting a growing trend among nations to grapple with the double-edged sword of vaping.

Societal and legislative transformations surrounding vaping underscore the complexities of tackling youth nicotine addiction while simultaneously addressing environmental sustainability. The impending ban on disposable vapes in the UK is a pivotal step in this multifaceted challenge, representing a concerted effort to forge a healthier future for both the population and the planet.

### Reference Map

* Paragraph 1: [[1]](https://www.thecooldown.com/green-business/uk-single-use-vape-pens-ban-disposable/), [[2]](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-crackdown-on-single-use-vapes)
* Paragraph 2: [[1]](https://www.thecooldown.com/green-business/uk-single-use-vape-pens-ban-disposable/), [[3]](https://www.ft.com/content/5569ed1e-c812-44ee-a62f-10249c91b76c)
* Paragraph 3: [[1]](https://www.thecooldown.com/green-business/uk-single-use-vape-pens-ban-disposable/), [[7]](https://www.apnews.com/article/e9969f33db065004d45abf9180c0e8cf)
* Paragraph 4: [[1]](https://www.thecooldown.com/green-business/uk-single-use-vape-pens-ban-disposable/), [[3]](https://www.ft.com/content/5569ed1e-c812-44ee-a62f-10249c91b76c), [[4]](https://www.euronews.com/green/2024/10/01/planet-of-the-vapes-how-big-a-problem-are-e-cigarettes-and-where-can-they-be-recycled)
* Paragraph 5: [[2]](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-crackdown-on-single-use-vapes), [[6]](https://www.ft.com/content/4d9ff52b-04fd-4645-9ae1-e49d887547c8)
* Paragraph 6: [[3]](https://www.ft.com/content/5569ed1e-c812-44ee-a62f-10249c91b76c), [[6]](https://www.ft.com/content/4d9ff52b-04fd-4645-9ae1-e49d887547c8)
* Paragraph 7: [[3]](https://www.ft.com/content/5569ed1e-c812-44ee-a62f-10249c91b76c), [[4]](https://www.euronews.com/green/2024/10/01/planet-of-the-vapes-how-big-a-problem-are-e-cigarettes-and-where-can-they-be-recycled)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.thecooldown.com/green-business/uk-single-use-vape-pens-ban-disposable/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-crackdown-on-single-use-vapes> - The UK government has announced a ban on the sale and supply of single-use vapes, effective from 1 June 2025. This decision aims to address environmental concerns, as these devices are often discarded improperly, releasing harmful substances into the environment and posing fire hazards in landfills and waste removal vehicles. The ban will apply to both in-store and online sales, while rechargeable or reusable vape pens will remain legal. The government emphasizes the need to reduce waste and pollution associated with single-use vapes.
3. <https://www.ft.com/content/5569ed1e-c812-44ee-a62f-10249c91b76c> - England and Wales are set to implement a ban on disposable vapes starting next summer to protect children's health and address waste issues. The UK government's legislation, introduced to parliament, grants businesses until June 1, 2025, to sell existing stock. Circular Economy Minister Mary Creagh highlighted the wastefulness of single-use e-cigarettes. Despite vaping aiding smokers to quit, the UK government raised concerns about its rising appeal to youths, with 20% of 11-17-year-olds trying vaping by 2023. Environmental concerns include five million single-use vapes discarded weekly and significant lithium use. The Labour government will also consider extending smoking restrictions to certain outdoor areas and further regulating vape sales and branding. The vape industry criticizes the ban, fearing it will increase black market activities.
4. <https://www.euronews.com/green/2024/10/01/planet-of-the-vapes-how-big-a-problem-are-e-cigarettes-and-where-can-they-be-recycled> - The UK government has confirmed that a ban on the sale and supply of single-use vapes will come into force in England on 1 June 2025, with Wales following suit. This decision aims to tackle the environmental impact of disposable vapes, which are often discarded improperly, releasing harmful substances into the environment and posing fire hazards in landfills and waste removal vehicles. The ban will apply to both in-store and online sales, while rechargeable or reusable vape pens will remain legal. The government emphasizes the need to reduce waste and pollution associated with single-use vapes.
5. <https://defraenvironment.blog.gov.uk/2025/05/01/single-use-vapes-why-its-time-to-ditch-them-for-good/> - The UK government has announced a ban on the sale and supply of single-use vapes, effective from 1 June 2025. This decision aims to address environmental concerns, as these devices are often discarded improperly, releasing harmful substances into the environment and posing fire hazards in landfills and waste removal vehicles. The ban will apply to both in-store and online sales, while rechargeable or reusable vape pens will remain legal. The government emphasizes the need to reduce waste and pollution associated with single-use vapes.
6. <https://www.ft.com/content/4d9ff52b-04fd-4645-9ae1-e49d887547c8> - Belgium has become the first EU country to ban sales of disposable vapes due to concerns over growing e-cigarette use among young people. Other countries, such as England, France, and Germany, are planning tighter regulations, but experts believe these measures alone will have limited impact on the industry. The ban aims to address health risks and environmental concerns, as disposable vapes often involve hard-to-recycle materials. While disposable vapes are popular among young people, experts suggest the ban may push consumers towards reusable vapes or even illegal products, potentially increasing illicit trade. The vaping industry argues for stronger enforcement rather than outright bans and highlights that such measures could inadvertently drive former smokers back to tobacco use.
7. <https://www.apnews.com/article/e9969f33db065004d45abf9180c0e8cf> - The UK government will ban the sale of disposable vapes and restrict their flavors to prevent nicotine addiction among children. Youth vaping has tripled in three years, with 9% of 11 to 15-year-olds using vapes, driven by appealing flavors like bubblegum. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak emphasized the need to protect children from the addictive health impacts of vaping. New regulations will introduce plain packaging, hide vapes from children's view in stores, and impose fines on shops illegally selling to minors. Adults can still use vapes to quit smoking. The government also plans to gradually raise the minimum age for cigarette purchases to eventually ban sales to anyone born after January 1, 2009, despite controversy within the Conservative Party. This proposal follows a similar banned measure in New Zealand, while France recently approved a bill to ban single-use disposable e-cigarettes.