

Tulare County Office of Education | CHOICES TUPE Newsletter

GRADES 5-12 | ISSUE 7: OCTOBER 16, 2020

Vaping environmental effects

The *CHOICES TUPE* program helps students discover skills needed so they can successfully transition through important life milestones. The seventh unit found in this newsletter will cover the effects of thirdhand vape smoke and the impact vaping can have on the environment.



Thirdhand smoke

- Thirdhand smoke is the residue from cigarettes, e-cigarette and vaping devices, and other tobacco products that collects on nearby surfaces.
- Exposure to this residue can damage DNA and increase the risk for short-term and long-term health problems, including asthma and cancer.



Where

These dangerous chemicals cling to walls, carpets, car interiors, and even clothing and hair, leaving behind a dangerous residue that can actually become more toxic over time.



Environmental impact

1. Single-use plastic pods

Products such as plastic straws receive significant attention for the environmental damage they cause as single-use products, which create significantly more waste than reusable products and can take many years to break down.

2. Most pods often end up as litter

Single-use pods may end up as litter, compounding the issue of tobacco product litter. Since the 1980s, cigarette butts have consistently comprised 30-40% of all items collected in annual international coastal and urban cleanups.

3. E-cigarettes contain heavy metals

E-cigarettes, like JUUL, can leak heavy metals and residual nicotine into the environment. Because of heavy metals and residual nicotine, e-cigarettes may qualify as both e-waste and biohazard waste.



▶ Always be mindful of the impact smoking can have not just on our body but our living environment. Our decisions do not just affect us personally; they affect those around us as well.



▶ **Social media tip of the week**
Social media can be used as a tool to make a positive impact in our community. Bringing attention to the dangers smoking can have on our environment can create a change for the better.



Additional video resources:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=CFi0uW9FHNE

"Every action we take impacts the lives of others around us." - Arthur Carmazzi



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