



E-cigarette and Vaping - Health Risks

ALTHOUGH e-cigarettes are not as harmful as cigarettes, evidence shows that e-cigarettes contain harmful chemicals, not just “water vapor.” This presents significant public health concerns.

Here are some of the chemicals that have been identified in e-liquids, aerosols that users inhale, and secondhand vapor that may be inhaled by bystanders.

LEGEND

Body Systems Affected

- lungs & respiratory system (nose, throat)
- cardiovascular system
- central nervous system
- blood and cells
- kidneys
- liver
- muscle and skin systems
- reproductive systems

Health Risks

- carcinogen
- toxin
- irritant

Found In

- e-liquid
- aerosol
- second-hand vapor

Chemical Name	Body Systems Affected	Health Risks	Found In	Chemical Formula	Used As
Propylene glycol (PG)				<chem>CC(O)CO</chem> C ₃ H ₈ O ₂	 base liquid
Vegetable glycerin (VG, a.k.a. glycerol)				<chem>OCC(O)CO</chem> C ₃ H ₈ O ₃	 base liquid
Cinnamaldehyde and Methoxy-cinnamaldehyde				<chem>O=C/C=C/c1ccccc1</chem> C ₉ H ₈ O <chem>COc1ccc(C=C/C=O)cc1</chem> C ₁₀ H ₁₀ O ₂	 cinnamon flavoring
Diacetyl, a.k.a. 2,3-Butanedione				<chem>CC(=O)C(C)=O</chem> C ₄ H ₆ O ₂	 buttery, alcohol, or fruit flavorings
Acetyl propionyl, a.k.a. 2,3-Pentanedione				<chem>CC(=O)CC(C)=O</chem> C ₅ H ₈ O ₂	 buttery, alcohol, or fruit flavorings
Benzaldehyde				<chem>O=Cc1ccccc1</chem> C ₇ H ₆ O	 cherry flavoring
Nicotine Nicotine used in e-liquids is extracted from tobacco. Because their brains are still developing, children and teens are especially sensitive to nicotine and may become addicted more easily.				<chem>CN1CCCC1c2cccnc2</chem> C ₇ H ₈ O ₂	 highly addictive stimulant

Chemical Name	Body Systems Affected	Health Risks	Found In	Chemical Formula				
Acetaldehyde				<chem>CC=O</chem> C ₂ H ₄ O				
Acrolein				<chem>O=C/C=C</chem> C ₃ H ₄ O				
Formaldehyde				<chem>C=O</chem> CH ₂ O				
Toluene				<chem>Cc1ccccc1</chem> C ₇ H ₈				
p,m-Xylene				<chem>Cc1ccc(C)cc1</chem> C ₈ H ₁₀				
Butyraldehyde a.k.a. butanal				<chem>CCCC=O</chem> C ₄ H ₈ O				
Cadmium				<table border="1"><tr><td>48</td></tr><tr><td>Cd</td></tr><tr><td>Cadmium</td></tr><tr><td>112.414</td></tr></table>	48	Cd	Cadmium	112.414
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Lead				<table border="1"><tr><td>82</td></tr><tr><td>Pb</td></tr><tr><td>Lead</td></tr><tr><td>207.2</td></tr></table>	82	Pb	Lead	207.2
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Chromium				<table border="1"><tr><td>24</td></tr><tr><td>Cr</td></tr><tr><td>Chromium</td></tr><tr><td>51.996</td></tr></table>	24	Cr	Chromium	51.996
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Nickel				<table border="1"><tr><td>28</td></tr><tr><td>Ni</td></tr><tr><td>Nickel</td></tr><tr><td>58.693</td></tr></table>	28	Ni	Nickel	58.693
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