

Secondhand Smoke


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Secondhand Aerosol

(similar to secondhand smoke) is the plume of chemicals released into the environment directly from the e-cigarette / pod-based device AND from the lungs of the user.





Common places for exposure to secondhand aerosol include restaurants, parks, vehicles, and designated smoking areas.

A photograph of a man in profile on the right, wearing a light blue shirt and smoking a cigarette. A thick plume of white smoke is being exhaled from the cigarette and drifts towards the left, where a woman with blonde hair in a ponytail and wearing glasses is looking towards the man. The background is dark. In the upper right corner, there is a decorative graphic of a grid of white and grey triangles. A red rectangular box with a white border is in the bottom left corner, containing text.

Exposure can lead to respiratory infections and make someone's asthma worse, among other problems.

Another way that e-cigarettes or vape pens pose a danger to others is through thirdhand aerosol.

Thirdhand aerosol contains a mixture of the chemicals that originate from the vape device, but remain on surfaces and in dust -- even after the aerosol is gone. These particles react with each other and with other chemicals in the environment to form toxins.



These potentially harmful chemicals can be exposed to other people or animals through the respiratory system, through ingestions, and through skin exposure.



Small children are especially at risk for thirdhand aerosol exposure because they tend to put things into their mouths and they have vulnerable skin.

