

VAPES AND EMBEDDED BATTERIES



Vapes and E-Cigarettes

Vapes and e-cigarettes have nicotine (a **hazardous waste**) and a rechargeable **lithium-ion battery**, which are banned from disposal in NH. It is illegal for facilities to put vapes in the trash.

If your facility collects vapes, **you become a hazardous waste generator**. It's best to stay in the Very Small Quantity Generator threshold.

Managing Household Vapes at Your Transfer Station

- **Individually bag** each vape.
- **Store in labelled container** with a cover.
- **Place in a protected area.** Avoid exits and small spaces.
- Use a **licensed transporter** to dispose of vapes.

Vape Disposal by Type

- Sealed, single-use vapes are hazardous waste.
- Vapes with removable nicotine pods can be managed separately. Recycle the battery. Treat the pod as hazardous waste.

Scan the QR code for NHDES guidance on storage, hazardous waste regulations and transporters.



Solid Waste Safety Toolkit and Webinar

Lithium-ion batteries are a growing fire risk at transfer stations and recycling facilities. NH Recycles created a **Solid Waste Safety Toolkit with a FREE webinar (available online)** to help operators, municipalities, and first responders prevent fires and respond safely when incidents occur.



Embedded Batteries

If it has a motor, a cord or a rechargeable function, assume there is a battery inside.

Recycle the entire embedded battery device with your electronics. Do not attempt to remove the battery yourself!

Upcoming NH Recycles Programs (Fall 2026)



Keep an eye out for information about our **vape take back pilot program** and an announcement about our **safe battery management** efforts with NHDES!



FULL OF SCRAP

Special Wastes Edition

Fire Prevention & Safe Materials Handling at Transfer Stations

Transfer stations are seeing a growing number problematic batteries coming into their facility like **damaged, defective and recalled (DDR) batteries** and **vapes**.

When these items end up in places they shouldn't be - like **scrap metal** - they can get crushed or punctured and spark a fire.

This special edition of Full of Scrap **covers practical operation improvements** including battery inspection tips, traffic flow, non-ferrous metal recovery and site safety considerations.



Example of a portable battery pack.



Top 5 Signs of Damaged or Deffective (DDR) Batteries

1. Swelling or bulging
2. Hissing, popping or crackling sounds
3. Unusual colors or burn marks
4. Smoke or a sweet, metallic or chemical odor.
5. Cracks, punctures, dents, leaks

Recalled Batteries

A recalled battery may not show physical signs of damage. Check manufacturer websites or official recall databases if the battery:

- Gets very hot during charging, use, or when idle.
- Loses charge very fast, shuts down or no longer holds a full charge.

DAMAGED, DEFECTIVE, RECALLED BATTERIES



DDR Battery Handling

1. Wear PPE

Always wear gloves or safety glasses when handling DDR batteries.

2. Protect Terminals

Prevent short circuits:

- Put non-conductive tape on terminals OR bag each individually

3. Safe Storage

Place damaged batteries in:

- Vented, metal containers filled with sand, vermiculite or clay kitty litter
- Dry, protected locations

Keep away from:

- Flammable materials
- Doorways and high-traffic areas
- Moisture and water

4. Handle Leaking Batteries

- Contain leaks immediately
- Store away from other batteries
- Manage as **hazardous waste**

5. Emergency Response

If battery is smoking, emitting odor or heating rapidly, then:

- Evacuate the area
- Restrict access
- Contact local fire department

*What if the battery is **NOT LEAKING**?*

Manage **non-leaking DDR batteries as universal waste**. Tape the terminals with non-conductive tape or bag individually.

*Does NH Recycles have vendors that **accept DDR batteries**?*

Yes. NH Recycles works with **vetted vendors** that can **properly handle DDR batteries** under applicable regulations.



- Keep your **eyewash station** clear
- Have your **first aid kit** handy
- Post **emergency contact info** near the phone.

Traffic Patterns Matter

A facility's layout should have safe and orderly traffic patterns.

- **Set clear lanes** to MSW, C&D and recycling areas
- **Minimize pedestrian crossover**
- Remind facility users of **traffic speeds**.
- **Repaint** fading lane lines and directional arrows



SCRAP METAL SAFETY



Non-Ferrous Metal Program

Non-ferrous metal includes appliance cords, shop wire, Romex electrical wire, copper and brass.

Separating these metals could **bring in more revenue for your community**. One of our members brought in \$30,000 this year alone, through their non-ferrous program.

Contact the NH Recycles Member Services team if you're interested in starting or expanding a non-ferrous program at your facility.



Plan Ahead: Partner With Your Fire Department

Invite your local fire department to visit your facility and review:

- Scrap metal areas
- Propane storage
- Battery storage areas
- Site layout and access points

Two-Stage Separation

Avoid safety risks and costly fines

Scrap metal is a high-risk area for fires at a facility because prohibited items can be hidden. Lithium-ion batteries, lead-acid batteries, propane tanks, oxygen tanks, and gasoline containers are **not allowed** in scrap metal loads — but they still show up.

Best Practices for Attendants

Avoid vendor fines, prevent fires, protect staff.

1. **Inspect incoming material** when it arrives at the facility.
2. Do a **secondary inspection** before materials enter the scrap metal area.

- **Set clear collection procedures.**
- **Post signs** to educate residents.
- Use a **pre-sorting container** for battery powered items to inspect devices.
- **Separate Li-ion batteries** and electronic devices (phones, scooters, tablets, etc.)

Fire Prevention is the Goal



1. Catch risks early
2. Slow down the separation process using best practices
3. Keep workers safe
4. Protect facilities and equipment