



Smoking & Vaping: Keeping you safe at home

Smoking materials, vapes and e-cigarettes can all cause fires if not used safely. To reduce the risk, please follow the advice below.

If you smoke

- Never smoke in bed or anywhere you might fall asleep.
- Try to smoke outside, especially if you've been drinking or feel tired. If you can't, smoke while standing next to an open window or external door.
- Never leave a cigarette, cigar or pipe unattended.
- Use a proper, heavy ashtray and always fully stub out smoking materials.
- Use a self-extinguishing ashtray to help ensure cigarettes are fully stubbed out.
- Wet the contents of the ashtray before putting them in a bin.
- Store lighters and matches out of the reach of children.

If you use any type of vape, including e-cigarettes

Safe purchasing and use

- Only buy vapes, chargers and batteries from reputable retailers. Counterfeit or sub-standard products increase the risk of overheating and fire.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully and do not modify the device.
- Keep vapes and e-liquids out of the reach of children and pets.

Safe charging

- Always use the charger supplied with your device or one recommended by the manufacturer. Using the wrong charger can cause overheating or explosion.
- Most vape-related fires are caused by unsafe charging. Only ever charge vapes/e-cigarettes on a hard, flat, fire-resistant surface.

- Never leave a vape charging overnight or while unattended.
- Unplug your device when fully charged and do not use while charging.

Safe storage

- Store vapes in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight and other heat sources.
- Keep them away from metal objects such as keys or coins to prevent short-circuits.
- Avoid crushing, puncturing, or exposing batteries to water. Damaged batteries are a significant fire risk.

Check for damage

- Stop using the device immediately if it becomes unusually hot, smells strange, or looks damaged. Faulty or damaged batteries can ignite without warning.

Safe disposal

- Do not place vapes or batteries in household waste or recycling bins.
- Return them to a retailer offering a take-back scheme, or take them to your local recycling centre's small electrical items area.

General home safety

- Test your smoke alarms monthly and make sure you have alarms on every level of your home.
- Keep exits, hallways and stairways clear - never charge devices where they could block an escape route.
- Vulnerable residents may be eligible for a free Home Fire Safety Visit. To find out if you qualify, please visit www.suffolk.gov.uk

If you stop smoking/vaping, you can remove the risk altogether.

For **FREE** personalised stop smoking support, please visit **Find Support - Feel Good Suffolk**.