

Know your illegal vapes

What is Spice?

Spice is a generic name for synthetic cannabinoids, designed to have similar effects to cannabis but can be much more potent and unpredictable.

Signs of Spice use:

Intense but short-lived high, heart palpitations (chest pains), altered mood and perceptions, loss of consciousness, amnesia, hallucinations, seizures, fearfulness and suicidal thoughts, psychotic episodes, overdose.

**One in six vapes
and vape liquids
confiscated in UK
schools in a
recent study
tested positive
for Spice.
University of
Bath, 2024**

What is THC?

THC is the psychoactive component of cannabis, responsible for the 'high' and the negative effects cannabis can have.

Signs of THC use:

Anxiety, panic attacks, paranoia, hallucinations, confusion, nausea, vomiting, loss of coordination, drowsiness, difficulty concentrating, problems speaking.

How to respond:

Depending on the severity of the effects...

- Take them somewhere calm and quiet
- Try and find out what they've taken
- Don't leave them alone
- Get medical help/ call emergency services

For more information:

FRANK www.talktofrank.com/news/cannabisvapes
DSM foundation www.dsmfoundation.org.uk

Spice vapes

Spice can be added to refillable vapes in liquid form, which is often coloured, or in pods/cartridges. There are many different brands and it is much cheaper than THC.

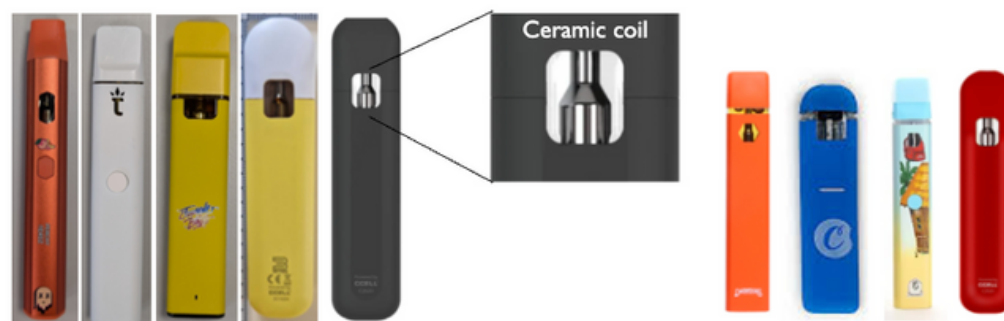
Cost: around £5-10 for liquid, around £10-20 for a refillable device



THC vapes

THC oil is a yellow resin or oil with a typical 'cannabis' smell and requires a specific type of vape, featuring a ceramic coil. There are many different brands and it is more expensive than Spice.

Cost: around £15-60



If you know or suspect a vaping device contains THC or Spice:

- Do not return it to the pupil or their parents/carers
- Get in touch with your local police force and arrange handover – ask your senior leadership or safeguarding team who to contact

This visual guide is based on research from the University of Bath. It is intended to provide professionals a way to visually triage whether an e-cigarette ('vape') potentially contains a controlled drug. The visual guide is not exhaustive and is indicative only. References to specific commercial products are based on lab-findings and marketing material from the individual brands. Visual identification cannot be used as confirmation.