

Table 1: Location of specialist vape retailers operating in Wellington, Porirua, Upper Hutt and Lower Hutt, January 2024.

Location	Number of stores	NZ Deprivation Index decile
Wellington		
Wellington Central City	22	3-6
Newtown/Mt Cook	4	6-9
Kilbirnie	2	7
Tawa Central/North	2	5
Strathmore	1	8
Brooklyn	1	2-3
Newlands	1	3-4
Johnsonville	1	3
Porirua		
Porirua Central City/Kenepuru	5	10
Titahi Bay	5	8-9
Waitangirua	2	10
Porirua East/Ranui	2	10
Takapūwāhia	1	9
Whitby	1	1
Upper Hutt		
Upper Hutt Central City	3	4
Te Mārua	1	3
Silverstream	1	2
Trentham	1	7
Lower Hutt		
Wainuiomata	5	7-8
Lower Hutt City Centre	3	2-4
Naenae	3	10
Petone	3	5
Taitā	2	10
Stokes Valley	2	7
Boulcott	2	4
Moera	1	10
Total	77	

Table 2: Characteristics of low-priced vapes purchased in January 2024.

Brand, model	Flavour(s) purchased	Price (NZ\$)	Volume	Nicotine strength (nicotine salt)	Nicotine limit compliance	Child lock compliance	Removable battery compliance	Notes
Single-use products								
AirsPops one use	Ice Cola, Bubble Bum, Pink Crystal, Aromango	\$2.50–9	3ml	50mg/ml	No	No	No	Generally discounted, e.g., two for \$5
AirsPops Eco	Freezy Grape, Energy Power	\$14.90	3ml	50mg/ml	No	No*	No*	Marketed as recyclable, \$5 credit when used vape is returned
ALLO Nexus 6000	Raspberry Peach	\$22	14ml	50mg/ml	No	Yes	Yes	Rechargeable battery, single-use vaping device
alt. Nu	Lemon	\$10	3ml	20mg/ml	Yes	Yes	No*	Batteries cannot be removed without specialist equipment
Smok Stick Bar	Taro Ice Cream	\$5	3ml	50mg/ml	No	No	No	Discounted. Flavour may be designed to appeal to Pacific people
solo	Strawberry Mint, Sour Apple, Mint	\$10	3.5ml	20mg/ml	Yes	Yes	No*	Batteries cannot be removed without specialist equipment

Table 2 (continued): Characteristics of low-priced vapes purchased in January 2024.

Brand, model	Flavour(s) purchased	Price (NZ\$)	Volume	Nicotine strength (nicotine salt)	Nicotine limit compliance	Child lock compliance	Removable battery compliance	Notes
Vorteke puk.	Mint	\$14.95	10ml	35mg/ml	No	No*	Yes	Rechargeable battery, single-use vaping device
Vozol Bar	Refreshing Mint	\$10	4ml	46mg/ml	No	No	No	Discounted
Reusable starter packs								
R and M Dazzle	Peach Ice Cream	\$15	10ml	Not stated	Unclear	NA	NA	Non-compliant labelling
solo kit	Mint	\$9.99	2.5ml	50mg/ml	Yes	NA	NA	
Vozol Switch	Grape Ice	\$20	4.5ml	50mg/ml	Yes	NA	NA	

*Based on authors' interpretation of the law.

Note that compliance of reusable starter packs was based on the law at time of purchase (January 2024).

Figure 1: Examples of low-price single-use vapes purchased in January 2024.



a) Clearly non-compliant single-use vapes, old stock

- i) Vozol Bar, 46mg/ml strength (nicotine salt), 4ml volume, NZ\$10.
- ii) Smok Stick Bar, 50mg/ml strength (nicotine salt), Taro Ice Cream flavour, 3ml volume, NZ\$5.
- iii) AirsPops, 50mg/ml strength (nicotine salt), 3ml volume, NZ\$2.50–9.

b) New single-use products, do not appear to comply with removeable battery requirement

- i) alt. Nu 2%, 20mg/ml strength (nicotine salt), 3ml volume, NZ\$10. Batteries cannot be removed without specialist equipment.
- ii) solo 2%, 20mg/ml strength (nicotine salt), 3.5ml volume, NZ\$10. Batteries cannot be removed without specialist equipment.

c) Ambiguous new products, exceeded nicotine limit for single-use vapes

- i) ALLO Nexus 6000, 50mg/ml strength (nicotine salt), 14ml volume, NZ\$22. Removeable, rechargeable battery but vaping device itself is single use. Marketed as “device + pod”.
- ii) Vortek puk., 35mg/ml strength (nicotine salt), 10ml volume, NZ\$14.95. Removeable, rechargeable battery but vaping device itself is single use. Marketed as “device + pod”.
- iii) AirsPops Eco one use, 50mg/ml strength (nicotine salt), 3ml volume, NZ\$14.90. Marketed as recyclable, with a \$5 discount on next purchase when used vape is returned to the store.

Figure 2: Examples of low-price reusable vape starter packs purchased in January 2024.

a)



b)



a) Non-compliant reusable vape starter pack

R & M Dazzle device + 10ml e-liquid, nicotine strength not stated, NZ\$15. Does not comply with labelling requirements, e.g., lacks health warning, nicotine strength, ingredients. At time of writing, cartoon imagery was still permitted but has become illegal from 21 March 2024.

b) Reusable vape starter packs—compliant when study was undertaken

i) solo kit: vaping device + charging cable + 2.5ml pod, 50mg/ml (nicotine salt), NZ\$9.99. At the time of purchase, pod systems were not subject to reduced nicotine limits or safety requirements. This kit is longer compliant from 21 March 2024.

ii) Volzol Switch device + prefilled pod 50mg/ml strength (nicotine salt), 4.5ml capacity, NZ\$20. At the time of purchase, pod systems were not subject to reduced nicotine limits or safety requirements. This kit is longer compliant from 21 March 2024.