

What to Expect When You Quit Smoking and Start Vaping

Deciding to quit smoking and start vaping marks the beginning of a transformative journey for your health. The body undergoes a series of remarkable changes, many of which start almost immediately after quitting cigarettes. This article explores the timeline of changes, symptoms, side effects, and health benefits associated with switching from smoking to vaping.



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Timeline

Days 1 to 3: The Beginning

The positive changes start as soon as you put out your last cigarette. Within the first 20 minutes, your pulse rate begins to normalize. This rapid adjustment is just the beginning of a

cascade of beneficial changes.

- **20 Minutes:** Pulse rate normalizes.
- **8 Hours:** Oxygen levels in your blood rise, and carbon monoxide levels drop by half.
- **48 Hours:** Carbon monoxide is completely eliminated from your body, allowing your lungs to begin clearing out mucus and other smoking-related debris. Your senses of taste and smell also start to improve.
- **72 Hours:** Bronchial tubes relax, making breathing easier and increasing energy levels.

2 Weeks and Beyond: Reaping the Rewards

The [benefits of quitting smoking](#) and starting vaping continue to unfold over the coming weeks and months.

- **2 to 12 Weeks:** Improved circulation enhances blood flow to your heart and muscles, promoting overall cardiovascular health.
- **3 to 9 Months:** Respiratory improvements become noticeable. Symptoms like coughing, wheezing, and breathing difficulties diminish as lung function improves by up to 10%.
- **1 Year:** Your risk of heart attack drops to about half that of a smoker, marking a significant improvement in cardiovascular health.

Long-Term Benefits

- **5 Years:** The risk of stroke is similar to that of a non-smoker.
- **10 Years:** The risk of dying from lung cancer is halved compared to a smoker, providing significant long-term health benefits and peace of mind.

Symptoms and Side Effects

Switching from [smoking to vaping](#) can bring about various symptoms and side effects as your body adjusts to the absence of traditional cigarettes and adapts to vaping.

Short-Term Symptoms

- **Nicotine Withdrawal:** Irritability, headaches, and cravings can occur as your body adjusts to lower nicotine levels.
- **Improved Taste and Smell:** As these senses return, you may notice foods and scents are more vibrant.
- **Coughing and Phlegm:** As your lungs begin to clear out the tar and toxins from smoking, you may experience increased coughing and phlegm production.

Side Effects of Stopping Smoking

- **Mood Changes:** Anxiety, depression, and restlessness are common as your body and brain adjust to life without smoking.
- **Sleep Disturbances:** Insomnia or changes in sleep patterns can occur.
- **Appetite Changes:** An increased appetite and potential weight gain may be noticed as nicotine, which is an appetite suppressant, leaves your system.

Health Benefits

The health benefits of quitting smoking and switching to vaping are substantial and wide-ranging.

Cardiovascular Health

- **Improved Circulation:** Enhanced blood flow leads to better heart health and increased energy levels.

- **Reduced Heart Attack Risk:** Within a year, the risk of heart attack drops significantly.

Respiratory Health

- **Better Lung Function:** Over several months, lung function improves, reducing coughing, wheezing, and breathlessness.
- **Lowered Lung Cancer Risk:** Long-term, the risk of lung cancer decreases dramatically.

Overall Well-being

- **Mental Health Improvements:** Reduced stress and anxiety levels due to the elimination of smoking-related health worries.
- **Enhanced Quality of Life:** Improved physical health leads to greater participation in activities and an overall higher quality of life.

Conclusion

The decision to quit smoking and start vaping initiates a rapid and profound transformation in your health. The immediate and long-term benefits of quitting smoking are significant, including improved cardiovascular and respiratory health, enhanced senses, and a lower risk of serious diseases like lung cancer and heart disease.

While the journey involves managing withdrawal symptoms and side effects, the overall improvement in well-being makes it a worthwhile endeavor.

Every day without smoking brings you closer to a healthier and brighter future. Stay committed and embrace the rewards of your smoke-free journey.