

You Deserve to Breathe *easy*

You, your family and pets deserve to breathe clean air. As a resident of an apartment community, you may be exposed to secondhand smoke without even realizing it. Talk to your property manager about making your community smoke free. People who smoke are not protected under the law, and your property manager has the right to implement a smoke-free policy.

Smoke-free Homes are Healthier

Secondhand smoke can move from other apartments into common areas and your home. It happens through air ducts, cracks in floors and walls, stairwells, hallways, elevator shafts, plumbing, electrical lines and open windows. Testing by the Center for Energy and Environment¹ found that air flow between homes in apartment buildings is difficult to reduce and almost impossible to eliminate.

Separating smokers from nonsmokers, cleaning the air and ventilating the building cannot eliminate exposure. *"No cleaning, ventilation or air-cleaning technologies ...controls health risks from environmental tobacco smoke exposure in spaces where smoking occurs," The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air Conditioning Engineers,*³ which sets the industry standards for ventilation.

According to the Surgeon General's Report² the only means of effectively eliminating the health risk associated with indoor exposure is to ban smoking.

- Conventional air cleaning systems can remove large particles, but not the smaller particles or the gases found in secondhand smoke.
- Current heating, ventilating, and air conditioning systems alone do not control secondhand smoke exposure. In fact, these systems may distribute secondhand smoke throughout a building.
- Even separately enclosed, separately exhausted, negative-pressure smoking rooms do not keep secondhand smoke from spilling into adjacent areas.²

Smoke-free Homes are Safer

- Apartments account for a larger share of smoking-related fires than other types of residences.⁴
- The fatality rate of smoking-related fires is four times greater than other fires, and the injury rate is three times greater.⁴
- 25 percent of victims of smoking-material fire fatalities are not the smoker whose cigarette started the fire.⁵

1 The Center for Energy and Environment. "Clean Indoor Air in Apartment - Researching Effective Strategies." 2001. www.mncee.org
2 Office on Smoking and Health, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General." 2006. www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/secondhandsmoke
3 American Society of Heating, Refrigeration & Air-Conditioning Engineers. "Environmental Tobacco Smoke: Position Document." 2008. www.ashare.org
4 U.S. Fire Administration. "Residential Smoking Fires and Causalities." 2005
5 Coalition for Fire-Safe Cigarettes. "Fast Facts."



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