

BENEFITS OF A SMOKE-FREE POLICY IN YOUR APARTMENTS



For Tenants

Apartment buildings around the country are going smoke-free. Here's why:

- Secondhand smoke is known to be harmful to tenants' health.
- It is legal for your landlord to put a smoke-free policy in place.
- Tenants want to have smoke-free air in their homes.
- A smoke-free policy can save your landlord money.
- Smoke-free policies can reduce the risk of fires in your building.

Protect Your Health and Comfort

- According to the Surgeon General, more than 126 million nonsmoking Americans are exposed to secondhand smoke in their homes and workplaces.¹
- **Clean the air.** Smoke-free policies improve air quality and reduce exposure to secondhand smoke. Smoke-free policies are the only effective way to protect nonsmokers from secondhand smoke.¹
- **Protect children.** Smoke-free policies protect children by reducing the risk for sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), asthma attacks, ear infections, and respiratory infections such as bronchitis and pneumonia that are brought on by secondhand smoke.^{1,2}
- **Protect yourself.** Smoke-free policies protect adults by removing a risk factor for lung cancer and heart disease.^{1,2}

Prevent Fires

- **Reduce your risk.** Smoke-free policies lower the risk of fires in your building.³
- **Save lives.** Smoking is the leading cause of home fire deaths in the U.S. **One out of four victims of smoking-related fires is not the smoker whose cigarette caused the fire.** More than one-third of those fatalities were children of the smokers and 25% were neighbors or friends of the smokers. Smoke-free policies can reduce the number of innocent fire victims that die each year in the U.S.³
- **Help firefighters.** U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 142,900 smoking-related fires in 2006 and many more fires go unreported each year.⁴



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Most Tenants Want Smoke-free Housing

- If you want your home to be smoke-free, you're not alone. Surveys taken around the country show a preference for smoke-free apartments.
- In most surveys done, 65%-75% of multi-unit residents prefer smoke-free housing.
- In Franklin County, 80% of the population does not smoke. Yet, smoke-free apartments are still hard to find.⁵
- A recent random sample survey of 160 Minneapolis/St. Paul renters found that **55% said they have moved or would move from an apartment because of secondhand smoke seepage. No one said they would move because of smoke-free air in the apartment.**⁶
- Even if there is no one around you who smokes today, there is no guarantee that a smoker won't move in next door tomorrow - unless there is a smoke-free policy.

1. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2006.
2. Secondhand Smoke (Updated October 6, 2009). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Available at: http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/secondhand_smoke/index.htm.
3. Smoking and Fire Safety (October 1, 2009). U.S. Fire Administration. Available at: <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/statistics/national/residential.shtm>.
4. Smoking Material Related Fires. September 2009. National Fire Protection Association. Available at: <http://www.nfpa.org/categoryList.asp?categoryID=294&URL=Safety%20Information/For%20consumers/Smoking%20material-related%20fires>.
5. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey Data. Atlanta, Georgia: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2007.
6. Tenant Demographics (2009). Smoke Free Housing Coalition of Maine. <http://www.smokefreeforme.org/landlord.php?page=Tenant+Demographics>.



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