



Smoke-free Apartments and Condos: How to Go Smoke-Free

Sample Tenant Handout

What Tenants Should Know About the Smoke-Free Policy at NAME OF PROPERTY

On IMPLEMENTATION DATE, a smoke-free policy will be take effect at NAME OF PROPERTY. (Include information on the policy, including the effective date, specifics about where smoking is prohibited on the property, and penalties for non-compliance.)

The new smoke-free policy will provide a number of benefits to our residents, including:

- 1. Cleaner air.** Secondhand smoke is toxic and contains chemicals ranging from formaldehyde to arsenic. In fact, every year over 38,000 deaths in the United States are the result of exposure to secondhand smoke.
- 2. Improved fire safety.** In Washington, cigarettes and smoking material are responsible for more deaths than any other fire source. When residential smoking fires occur, they cause more injuries, more deaths, and more expensive property damage than other types of residential fires.
- 3. Less damage to units.** Whether it's the smell, the yellow walls or the burn holes, cleaning up after a smoking tenant is time consuming and costly.

We appreciate your help keeping our property clean and safe for all tenants. As our property becomes smoke-free, tenants who are interested in quitting smoking can get free help at the Washington State Tobacco Quit Line (1-800-QUIT-NOW).

Facts about secondhand smoke:

- Secondhand smoke contains more than 4,000 chemical compounds -- more than 50 of which are known to cause cancer in humans or animals.
- Exposure to secondhand smoke at home or work increases a nonsmoker's risk of developing heart disease by 25 to 30 percent and lung cancer by 20 to 30 percent.
- Even brief exposure to secondhand smoke has immediate negative effects on the cardiovascular system and interferes with the normal functioning of the heart, blood and vascular systems in ways that increase the risk of a heart attack.
- Eliminating smoking in indoor spaces is the only way to fully protect nonsmokers from exposure to secondhand smoke. Separating smokers from nonsmokers, cleaning the air, and ventilating buildings cannot eliminate exposure to secondhand smoke.
- To learn more about the health effects of secondhand smoke, visit SmokeFreeWashington.com.

If you have questions or concerns, please call CONTACT INFORMATION.

Sponsored by the Washington State Department of Health