

How can infants be exposed to thirdhand smoke chemicals?



During pregnancy



Transferred by
people



Contaminated
surfaces



Breast milk and
infant food

Starting during pregnancy, toxic tobacco smoke chemicals can cross the placenta and pass from the mother to the developing infant. After birth, breast milk also can transfer tobacco smoke chemicals from mother to child. Finally, people may carry toxic tobacco smoke residue (also known as thirdhand smoke) on their skin, hair, and clothes, which the newborn child can breathe in or swallow.

Source: Northrup et al. (2021). Thirdhand smoke associations with the gut microbiomes of infants admitted to a neonatal intensive care unit: An observational study. *Environmental Research*, 197, 111180.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envres.2021.111180>