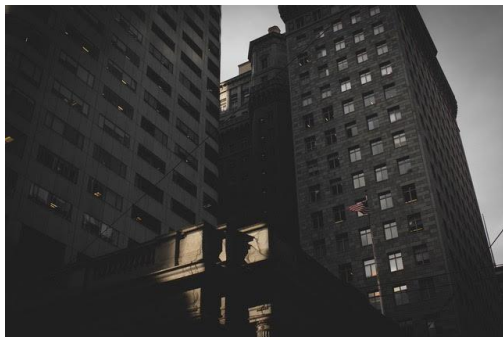


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### **New Survey Shows Californians Want to Know the Smoking History of their Home**

A recent flash poll conducted by the Thirdhand Smoke Resource Center found that 96% of Californians believe they should be informed if the home they are about to purchase or rent may contain toxic thirdhand smoke residue.



Our home: It's a safe space where we share meals with loved ones and come back to after a long day. It's a space where your kids or pets play and where they grow up. It might even be your makeshift office due to the pandemic. Regardless of what roles your home serves and regardless of whether you own or rent your home, you deserve to feel safe in the place you call your home.

Toxic thirdhand smoke, the invisible and persistent residue left behind from tobacco smoking, could threaten the safety and security of your space, even if you don't smoke. This toxic chemical residue could endanger your health and the health of your loved ones if previous residents of your home smoked, depositing often unnoticeable thirdhand smoke on furniture, walls, floors, and other surfaces. Before you buy or rent a home, shouldn't you be informed about the possibility of residual thirdhand smoke?

Thirdhand smoke researchers and public health advocates believe that it is your right to know your home's smoking history. A recent survey of California residents found that they are not the only ones who feel this way. The survey, to which over 1,800 residents from 47 different California counties responded, showed that 96% of respondents agreed that they should be told if there is toxic tobacco smoke residue in a home they are buying or renting. The results of the

survey, reported by the Thirdhand Smoke Resource Center and posted on [date], can be seen here [hyperlinked].

Support for thirdhand smoke awareness when buying or renting homes was shared by everyone, regardless of age, sex, employment status, first language, or smoking status. Support was high even among people who said they smoke or vape, 87% of whom expressed agreement. It is clear that most Californians care about the presence of thirdhand smoke in their homes and believe this information is relevant to buying or renting a new home.

Current policies require disclosure of some environmental hazards in the home, such as lead, mold, or radon, but they do not require disclosure or testing for toxic tobacco smoke pollutants, information that is especially relevant [during the pandemic](#). The results of this survey support accurate disclosure of past smoking in real estate transactions and rental contracts for the benefit of buyers, renters, sellers, apartment managers, and realtors.

California has long been a national leader in tobacco control. The results of this survey suggest a new area for leadership: routine disclosure of tobacco product use and education about thirdhand smoke in real estate transactions, including sales and rentals, to protect Californians from exposure to toxic thirdhand smoke. The overwhelming majority of Californians want to know if their home is safe.

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The study was funded by a grant from the California Tobacco Related Disease Research Program (TRDRP). More information about thirdhand smoke pollution and exposure can be found the [Thirdhand Smoke Resource Center](#).

For more information contact Dr. Georg Matt at [gmatt@sdsu.edu](mailto:gmatt@sdsu.edu) or at 619.594.0503 (daytime)/619.895.1413 (evening) or visit the Thirdhand Smoke Resource Center website [www.thirdhandsmoke.org](http://www.thirdhandsmoke.org)

Link to image: <https://pixabay.com/photos/city-san-francisco-market-street-4764064/>