

# Thirdhand Smoke Resource Center



## What are the advantages of making my rental properties smokefree?

### The Short Answer

Thirdhand smoke is the chemicals left behind when someone smokes tobacco. Thirdhand smoke is unhealthy for people and pets. It can stick around for a long time in homes and cars. It gets into your body if you inhale, swallow, or touch the chemicals. Getting rid of it is really hard and can cost a lot of money.

Most importantly, smokefree properties protect people's health by reducing their exposure to toxic second- and thirdhand smoke. In addition, making rental properties smokefree will save you money. Many people know the dangers of secondhand smoke and want to live somewhere smokefree. Finally, smokefree properties have less fire risk and smoking-related maintenance, such as having to do less deep cleaning of thirdhand smoke-polluted rooms in-between tenants.

### The Long Answer

Thirdhand smoke is the chemical residue from tobacco smoke. It is also called "tobacco smoke residue" or "stale tobacco smoke." The chemicals in thirdhand smoke are toxic to humans, especially children. It can linger for years in dust and on household surfaces. It can also become embedded in carpets, furniture, clothes, and building materials. It is difficult and expensive to remove.

Much of the public knows that secondhand smoke is bad for your health. For this reason, smokefree rental properties are in high demand. Surveys show that most renters prefer 100% smokefree properties.

Smokefree rental properties save money by:

- reducing the risk of tobacco-related fires in apartments.
- lowering fire and liability insurance premiums for the property.
- avoiding the need for expensive smoking-related repairs when tenants move out.
- reducing litter from tobacco waste, such as cigarette butts.
- reducing complaints about unpleasant odors and unhealthy air because of smoke intrusion.

Smokefree rental properties save lives and protect the health of tenants by:

- eliminating current tenants' exposure to secondhand smoke that drifts between apartments.

- preventing future residents' exposure to thirdhand smoke chemicals that have embedded in rugs, walls, and other surfaces in units where previous tenants smoked.

*Save money, save lives. Make your property smokefree.*

Do you have more questions about the toxic legacy of tobacco smoke, how it affects human health, and what we can do about it? Learn more here.

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### **Sources:**

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