

Smoke-Free Apartments: What Tenants Should Know

People who live in multi-unit dwellings have a right to be concerned when unwanted smoke drifts into their apartments from smoking neighbors.

Unwanted secondhand smoke can travel within a building through shared ventilation, heating systems, cracks in walls, openings around plumbing, under doors and through poor insulation.

Secondhand Smoke Health Hazards

According to the U.S. Surgeon General:

- Secondhand smoke is smoke exhaled by a smoker or drifting from the burning end of a lit cigarette or other tobacco product.
- Secondhand smoke contains over 4,000 chemical compounds -- more than 50 of which are known to cause cancer in humans or animals.
- Secondhand smoke is NOT just a nuisance. It is a known health hazard. There is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke.
- Separating smokers from nonsmokers, cleaning the air, and ventilating buildings cannot eliminate exposures of nonsmokers to secondhand smoke. Eliminating smoking in indoor spaces fully protects nonsmokers from exposure to secondhand smoke.
- Secondhand smoke causes respiratory tract infections, such as pneumonia and bronchitis, especially in infants, children and older persons, as well as other illnesses and diseases.

Know the Facts

- There is no law that protects people's "right to smoke." Most buildings can create a 100% smoke-free building policy that is not discriminatory. Landlords can prohibit smoking just like they can prohibit pets.
- Smoking is the #1 cause of apartment fires, damaging buildings and killing residents.
- For information on your legal rights as a tenant, go to:
http://talc.phlaw.org/pdf_files/0076.pdf
- For suggestions on working cooperatively with your landlord on a smoke-free policy, go to:
www.smokefreeforme.org



For more information on smoke-free apartments
visit www.tobaccofreeonondaga.org