



The Importance of Smokefree Housing

Why go smokefree?

- **Marketability**
Only one-in-four Montana renters (26%) are protected by smokefree housing policies, but 69% of renters not currently protected by a smokefree policy would like to see their landlord adopt one.¹
- **Cost Savings**
Apartment turnover costs are 2 to 7 times greater when smoking is allowed in a unit, studies show.⁵
- **Improved Safety**
Smoking is one of the leading causes of home fire fatalities in the United States.⁶
In 2020, cigarettes caused nearly 40 residential fires, 2 deaths, and \$1.3 million in property loss in Montana.⁶

Smokefree Housing Database

Looking for smokefree housing in your community? Want to advertise your smokefree housing facility? Visit tobaccofree.mt.gov.



CONTACT

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Tobacco smoke doesn't stay next door.

- Doors and walls can't stop neighbors' tobacco smoke from finding its way into surrounding units. Smoke drifts through ventilation systems, through doorways and windows, and even through electrical outlets.
- Air purifiers and ventilations systems can't prevent secondhand smoke from passing into neighboring units. The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating & Air Conditioning Engineers stated that "the only means of avoiding health effects and eliminating environmental tobacco smoke exposure is to ban all smoking activity inside and near buildings."²

Where there's smoke, there's danger.

- The U.S. Surgeon General has concluded there is no safe level of secondhand smoke exposure.
- Secondhand tobacco smoke contains more than 7,000 chemicals, 70 of which are known to cause cancer.³
- Exposure to secondhand smoke increases the risk of health problems such as heart disease, respiratory problems, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), and headaches.⁴

Tobacco product residue damages health & property.

- Thirdhand smoke is the residue from tobacco smoke and e-cigarette aerosol that remains in the environment after the product has been used. This residue clings to furniture, drapes, walls, carpet and many other surfaces and builds up over time.⁷
- People and pets can be exposed to thirdhand smoke through ingestion, absorption, or inhalation as the chemicals release into the air.⁸ Similar to secondhand smoke, thirdhand smoke increases the risk of heart disease, respiratory problems and SIDS.⁹
- Thirdhand smoke decreases property value and renter appeal.¹⁰ Removing the residue takes time and is costly.

Thirdhand Smoke Property Damage



Images from Clean Air for All: The Smoke-free Public Housing Project



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SOURCES

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Monetary Impacts on Housing Providers

	No Smoking	Light Smoking	Heavy Smoking
General Cleaning	\$240	\$500	\$720
Paint	\$170	\$225	\$480
Flooring	\$50	\$950	\$1,425
Appliances	\$60	\$75	\$490
Bathroom	\$40	\$60	\$400
Total	\$560	\$1,810	\$3,515

Source: Adapted from the Čanĵlĵ Coalition's Tribal Tobacco Toolkit. Available at <https://www.findyourpowersd.com/toolkit/>.

Smokefree policies are legal.

- There is no Montana or federal law that prohibits a landlord from making an entire building or property smokefree. In fact, having a smokefree policy may protect you from the risk of some legal violations such as warrant of habitability or covenant of quiet enjoyment.
- Tenants with disabilities caused by or made worse by secondhand smoke may have legal protections under the Americans with Disabilities Act.¹²

Free assistance and resources are available.

- The Montana Tobacco Use Prevention Program (MTUPP) can help implement or request a smokefree policy on the property.
- Model lease addendum language, free smokefree property signs, compliance and enforcement tips, and free Montana Tobacco Quit Line promotional materials are available at tobaccofree.mt.gov.
- You can access a [free online course](#) about the importance of smokefree housing at tobaccofree.mt.gov.
- The Tobacco Education Specialist (TES) in your community can assist with the steps of promoting or implementing a smokefree policy. Find your local TES by contacting your county or tribal health department.



Free signs can be ordered from tobaccofree.mt.gov