

Second-hand Smoke in Apartments

Second-hand smoke is a serious health hazard. Breathing in second-hand smoke causes more than 100 deaths each year in Canadian non-smokers. Lung cancer and heart disease are the cause of these deaths in most cases.

Second-hand smoke contains over 4000 chemicals, 50 of which cause cancer. These chemicals contribute directly to asthma, heart disease, emphysema and lung cancer. These potentially toxic chemicals found in second-hand smoke can cling to rugs, curtains and clothes which can decrease the value of your property and your possessions.

The majority of people living in Canada do not smoke and would prefer not to be exposed to second-hand smoke. An Ipsos Reid Survey conducted in 2006 reported that 64% of Ontarians living in multi-unit dwellings (also known as apartments, condominiums, semi-detached houses, row or town houses, basement suites and duplexes) would prefer to live in a smoke-free building.



Second-hand smoke can enter a multi-unit dwelling from various sources:

- From a neighbour's patio or balcony, or from outdoor common areas;
- Through open windows or doors;
- Through electrical outlets, cable or phone jacks, or ceiling fixtures;
- Through cracks and gaps around sinks, countertops, windows, doors, floors, walls or dropped ceilings;
- Through the ventilation or forced air system.

When choosing a place to live within a multi-unit dwelling it is important to know your rights as a tenant and the rights of the landlord or property owner/manager regarding second-hand smoke.

Be aware of the harmful health effects of second-hand smoke on the other occupants within the dwelling, your family and you.

Additional Information - Links:

[Non-Smokers' Rights Association](#)

[Smoke-Free Housing](#)

[A Landlord & Tenant's Guide to No-Smoking Policies in Ontario](#)