



The Case for Smoke-Free Multi-Housing

Secondhand Smoke is Dangerous

- In 2005, 581 Minnesota infants and adults died from exposure to secondhand smoke. (BlueCross BlueShield of Minnesota)
- Secondhand smoke can cause emphysema, asthma, pneumonia, lung cancer, chronic bronchitis, and heart disease. (U.S. Centers for Disease Control)
- According to the U.S. Surgeon General, there is no risk-free level of secondhand smoke. (2006 Surgeon General's Report)

The Market for Smoke-Free Housing

Research by the Center for Energy and Environment (2001):

- Nearly 50% percent of Minnesota renters report that smoke gets into their apartment from somewhere else in the building.
- 37% of those experiencing smoke say it bothers them "a lot" or "so much I'm thinking of moving."
- Almost 50% of Minnesota renters would prefer to live in smoke-free units.
- Many renters would pay more rent and make other sacrifices such as walking farther to a bus stop or driving farther to work if they could live in a smoke-free building.

The Benefits of Smoke-Free Multi-Housing

- Reduced costs: Cleaning costs are lower when units don't have the smell of smoke, cigarette burns, or smoking residue.
- Fewer fire risks: Smoking-related fires are deadly and costly. Smoke-free policies eliminate the source of smoking-related fires.
- Smoke-free policies are legal: A building owner/manager can legally make a rental building—including individual units or the entire property—100% smoke free.



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About the Live Smoke Free Program

The Live Smoke Free program promotes smoke-free policies for apartment buildings. Currently, Minnesota tenants seeking smoke-free multi-unit housing largely outnumber the amount of smoke-free units available.

In order to increase the number of smoke-free buildings in Minnesota, Live Smoke Free educates building owners, managers, local policy makers, tenants, and housing industry professionals about the benefits of smoke-free buildings. Live Smoke Free assists building owners and managers with creating and promoting a smoke-free policy for their property.

The program also assists tenants in finding solutions to secondhand smoke problems. Tenants can learn how to talk to their landlord about creating a smoke-free policy for the building.

Live Smoke Free is a program of the Association for Nonsmokers—Minnesota that focuses on the Twin Cities metro area with grant funding from the Minnesota Department of Health.

Contact Live Smoke Free:

2395 University Ave West, Suite 310
St. Paul, MN 55114-1512
Phone: 651.646.3005
Fax: 651.646.0142
Web: www.mnsmokefreehousing.org

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Healthier Buildings, Happier Tenants,
A Smart Investment.**

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