

Is smoke Invading your privacy?



**Ask your
landlord for
smoke-free
policies for your
building.**

Smoke-free apartment buildings are—

Cleaner.

Secondhand smoke leaves residues on walls, cabinets, ceilings and floors. It can be very difficult to remove. Renovating an apartment that has been smoked in can require a lot of work, expensive cleaners, and even replacement of carpeting and cabinets. That can add up to hundreds or thousands of dollars.

Healthier.

There is no safe level of secondhand smoke. Not only is it an irritant, but it can cause bronchitis, asthma, coughing and wheezing, ear infections in children, premature birth when pregnant women are exposed to smoke, and even cancer. It increases the risks of sudden infant death syndrome. It can reduce the ability to fight disease, causing people to get sick more often and making it harder for people to heal.

Safer.

Smoking increases fire risks. Sometimes people fall asleep while they are smoking in a recliner or bed. Other times people do not put out cigarettes properly on balconies or other places in or next to apartment buildings. Fires can cause personal injury or death, and require renters to find emergency shelter. The financial loss can also be huge.

Many apartment buildings in North Platte and Lincoln County are already smoke-free.

Yours should be one of them.

What can you do?

1. If your neighbor smokes, ask him or her to consider smoking outside. Politely explain how smoking affects you and your family.
2. Check the apartment lease. Does it prohibit smoking? If it does, politely explain this to the neighbor. If it doesn't, talk to your landlord about making your building smoke-free. Share with him or her your reasons.
3. Talk to your neighbors who are also concerned about smoking in the building, and encourage them to join you in talking with your landlord. If the landlord is willing to consider a smoke-free policy, encourage him or her to include smoke-free rules for balconies and areas within 25 feet of entrances and windows.
4. If needed, do a survey to get input from other renters in your building. Contact Community Connections Tobacco Free Lincoln County for a survey form and other ideas, information and guidance, by emailing tflc@communityconnectionsnc.org
5. Take advantage of online resources to learn more about smoke-free multi-unit housing; how it affects people and their pets, and ways you can make a difference. See the references below.

Talking points / reasons landlords may not want to make a smoke-free policy for your building:

- They may not realize smoke-free policies are legal and that many apartment owners in our area have smoke-free policies written into their leases.
- They may be afraid they will not be able to rent their apartments if smoking is prohibited. They may not realize that most people, even people who smoke, prefer smoke-free housing.
- They may not want to go to the trouble and expense of cleaning up an apartment that has been smoked in over the years, as they transition to a smoke-free building. They may not have considered that, over time, it will save them money and will immediately reduce fire risks.

For more information:

Tobacco Free Lincoln County web page: www.CommunityConnectionsLC.org/tflc . Scroll down and click on “**Breathe Easier,**” for a list of apartments in our area, that have smoke-free policies for their buildings.

Smoke-Free Nebraska, at <http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Smokefree-Nebraska.aspx> ; information geared to landlords, about benefits of smoke-free policies, and ways to implement such policies.

Resources and Tools for Smokefree Multi-Unit Housing, from American Nonsmokers’ Rights Foundation, at <https://no-smoke.org/resources-tools-smokefree-multi-unit-housing/> .



Community Connections Tobacco Free Lincoln County, with funding from Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services / Tobacco Free Nebraska Program as a result of the Tobacco Master Settlement agreement. (308) 696-3356, www.CommunityConnectionsLC.org/tflc