



PROTECT YOUR INVESTMENT!

Going smoke-free saves you money - and helps save your building. Here are some interesting facts:

Tobacco smoke causes higher cleaning and repair costs

Tobacco smoke leaves a sticky residue on walls, curtains, blinds, appliances, and ceilings. The odor often stays in carpets, curtains, and walls. Dropped ashes may result in damage to tiles, carpets, countertops, and bathtubs.¹

When a smoking tenant moves out, costly cleaning and repairs are often necessary to prepare the unit for a new tenant.²

- Removing brown-yellow stains from walls, cabinets, blinds, and fixtures.
- Eliminating smoke odor from drapes, carpets, and walls through cleaning or removal.
- Repairing or replacing damaged, burned, or singed carpet, tiles, drapes, countertops, and bathtubs.

Fire Risks

Cigarettes are the leading cause of fires in buildings as well as the number one cause of fires that result in death.³

In 2008 smoking-material fires caused:

- 680 deaths
- 1520 injuries
- 737 million in direct property damage⁴

Resale Value

Research suggests that smoke-free apartment buildings may have increased re-sale value, should you ever decide to sell your building. Agents who have assisted people selling or shopping for everything from starter-home Capes to Victorian mansions, agree: as the number of public places in which a person can smoke has shrunk, so has the number of home buyers who are even willing to consider a house with smoking in its past.⁵

1. <http://www.mnsmokefreehousing.org>. Live Smoke Free. St. Paul, MN
2. <http://www.smokefreeforme.org>. Smoke-Free Housing Coalition of Maine.
3. U.S. Fire Administration, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, *Residential Smoking Fires and Casualties* (2005).
4. U.S. Fire Administration National Fire Incident Reporting System, v. 5.0)
5. New York Times, "Real Estate & Secondhand Smoke: On Tobacco Road, It's a Tougher Sell," Feb. 8, 2004.