

SMOKE-FREE HOUSING ORDINANCES

for Minnesota multi-unit housing

WHAT IS A SMOKE-FREE HOUSING ORDINANCE?

A smoke-free housing ordinance is a citywide requirement that prohibits smoking in some or all multi-unit properties located within the city. If implemented thoughtfully a smoke-free housing ordinance can be a powerful policy tool to protect multi-unit housing residents, guests, and staff from harmful second and thirdhand smoke exposure.

WHY ADOPT A SMOKE-FREE HOUSING ORDINANCE?

1 Everyone deserves to breathe clean air at home.

Despite policy advances that protect the public in workplaces, restaurants, and parks, tens of thousands of Minnesotans remain unprotected from harmful second and thirdhand smoke where they spend the most time: at home. This is especially true for multi-unit housing residents who share walls, electric, and ventilation systems with their neighbors.¹ According to the US Surgeon General there is no safe level of secondhand smoke exposure.² When one person in a multi-unit housing building smokes, everyone smokes.

To date most public health efforts in Minnesota have promoted the voluntary adoption of smoke-free housing policies at the building or property level. Thanks to these efforts more than 5,000 voluntary policies have been adopted. Unfortunately, many Minnesotans remain unprotected, including low income and racially and ethnically diverse communities who disproportionately live in multi-unit housing. Everyone deserves access to clean, smoke-free air at home.

2 Minnesotans want smoke-free air at home.

Almost all adult Minnesotans (92%), including people who smoke, have smoke-free rules at home.³ Local surveying by Live Smoke Free in the Twin Cities metro area has found broad

support for public policy solutions that protect clean indoor air for all. Since 2017, renters in Bloomington, Edina, Eden Prairie, Ramsey County, Brooklyn Park, West St. Paul, and Burnsville overwhelmingly favor smoke-free policies, including disclosure policies and citywide requirements (see left).

Community	Responses	% of Residents Who Would Support a Smoke-Free Housing Ordinance	% of Residents Who Would Support a Smoking Disclosure Ordinance
Ramsey County	239	78%	91%
Bloomington	579	67%	NA
Eden Prairie	256	85%	NA
Brooklyn Park	287	68%	NA
West St. Paul	230	75%	91%
Edina	458	91%	NA
Burnsville	221	73%	87%

HOW CAN MUNICIPALITIES TAKE ACTION?

In Minnesota (and nationally), communities have the authority and the responsibility to enact local smoke-free laws to protect their residents from exposure. The Public Health Law Center has a model smoke-free housing ordinance for Minnesota communities which includes all the minimum clean indoor air restrictions required by Minnesota state and federal law. It also includes several additional provisions a community may choose to adopt to further protect public health.

THE MINNESOTA MODEL SMOKE-FREE HOUSING ORDINANCE:

- Includes commercial tobacco, cannabis, and vapes in the smoking definition
- Covers all multi-unit housing including multiunit rental housing and common interest communities (e.g. condos, townhouses)
- Prohibits smoking in 100% of individual units, including balconies and patios
- Prohibits smoking in indoor and outdoor common areas
- Does not allow for exceptions for residents or types of products
- Includes a clear implementation and enforcement plan
- Emphasizes education, communication, graduated enforcement and cessation resources
- Includes equity provisions to protect renters from housing instability
- Allows for the sacred use of tobacco by American Indian, Indigenous, and Alaska Native communities for spiritual and medicinal purposes

LEARN MORE

Visit: www.mnsmokefreehousing.org/policy-makers.

Connect with Live Smoke Free at 651-646-3005 or info@mnsmokefreehousing.org.



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1. Center for Energy and Environment. Secondhand Smoke Transfer in Multiunit Buildings: PFT and Nicotine Verification (2010) <https://www.mncee.org/secondhand-smoke-transfer-multiunit-buildings-pft-and-nicotine-verification>
2. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General. Secondhand Smoke What It Means to You. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Coordinating Center for Health Promotion, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health (2006)
3. Minnesota Department of Health. Tobacco Use in Minnesota (2018). <https://www.health.state.mn.us/data/mchs/surveys/mats/index.html>