

Why go smoke-free?

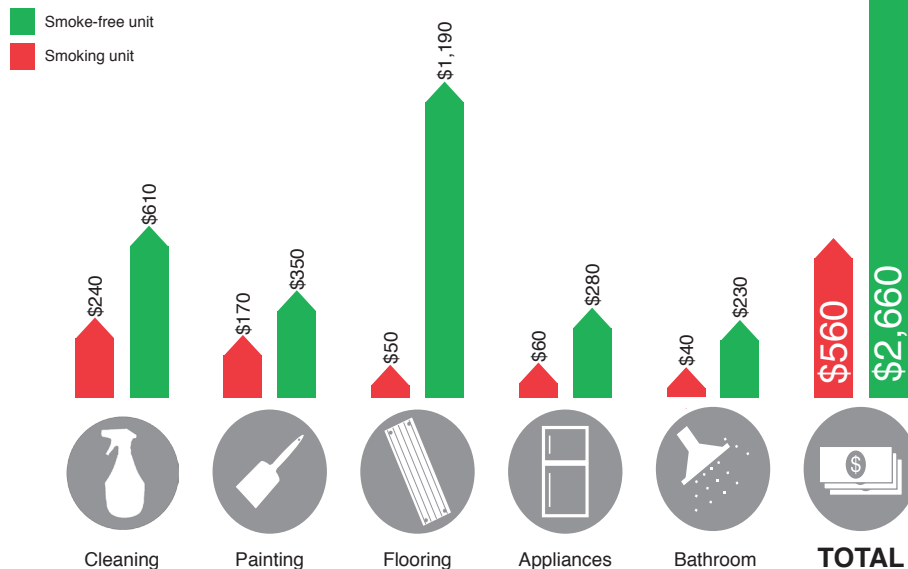
It's legal.

People who smoke are not a protected legal class, so there is no "right to smoke" under any U.S. law. In fact, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development encourages both public and private housing providers to implement smoke-free protections.

Property managers and associations are empowered by federal and Illinois law to make smoke-free protections for their properties just as they can make rules regarding pets or noise: to create a better, safer living environment.

It's profitable.

Going smoke-free protects your investment and your residents. Smoking is a leading cause of residential fires, and allowing smoking increases turnover costs.



Data reflects surveys from housing authorities and subsidized housing facilities collected and reported by Smoke-Free Housing New England, 2009.

It's easy.

Smoke-free buildings are in demand in suburban Cook County and across the U.S. Residents prefer smoke-free environments and many already don't allow smoking in their homes, so smoke-free protections are largely self-enforcing. Plus, a majority (59 percent) of suburban Cook County renters polled say they would be more likely to rent in a smoke-free building.

By the numbers

443,000

deaths are caused by smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke in the U.S. each year.

4 in 5

suburban Cook County residents do not smoke.

67

percent of smokers in suburban Cook County say they have tried to quit smoking.

44

percent higher asthma rates were recorded among children who lived with a smoker.

35 to 65

percent of air in any given unit is shared with air from other units and common areas.

20

percent of suburban Cook County renters polled say they would be willing to pay more to live in a smoke-free building.

Healthy HotSpot is an initiative led by the Cook County Department of Public Health that aims to build healthy places in suburban Cook County through community partnerships. For more information, visit healthyhotspot.org.

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Language adapted from Smoke-Free is Legal, Profitable, Easy, © 2013 Respiratory Health Association