



As of December 8, 2005, the Clean Indoor Air Act (Smoking in Public Places Law) prohibits smoking in all indoor public spaces and workplaces throughout the state.

How the Smoke-Free Law Affects You - Frequently Asked Questions

Why did the law change?

The law was changed to protect employees and the public in Washington State from exposure to secondhand smoke. It amends the 1985 Clean Indoor Air Act to prohibit smoking in all public places and places of employment, and within twenty-five (25) feet or less of doors, windows that open, and ventilation intakes.

What does the law require me to do?

You are required to post "No Smoking" signs that are clearly visible at each entrance (including service, employee, or any door that can be opened from the outside) and in other prominent locations and notify employees and patrons that smoking is not permitted in your business. You are also required to prohibit smoking within 25 ft. of all doors, windows that open, and ventilation intakes.

What types of places are covered under the new law?

All indoor public spaces and workplaces, including restaurants, bars, skating rinks, bowling alleys and casinos, are required to be smoke-free. Hotels and motels must ensure that at least 75% of the rooms are smoke-free.

Does the law apply to private clubs such as Yacht Clubs, Country Clubs, and Fraternal Organizations? Yes. The law applies to private clubs that have employees, volunteers, allow guests, or rent their facilities to the public. These businesses are required to be smoke-free.

Is smoking allowed in outside seating areas?

Smoking is not permitted in outside seating areas where employees are required to enter the area. Smoking is only permitted (25) feet from building doors, windows that open, or ventilation intakes and outside seating areas that do not offer any services requiring an employee to enter the area.

Can I provide an employee smoking room?

No. The law prohibits employers from providing employee smoking rooms.

Where can employees go to smoke?

Employees can smoke outside, at least twenty-five (25) feet away from building doors, windows that open, or ventilation intakes.

What should I do if someone starts smoking in an area where smoking is prohibited?

It is the responsibility of the business to inform the individual that he/she is in violation of the law. If the individual refuses to stop smoking or relocate to an outside area that is at least twenty-five (25) feet from away from building doors, windows that open, or ventilation intakes, contact your local law enforcement agency.

How can I support employees or customers who want to quit smoking?

Recommend that employers or customers contact the Washington State Tobacco Quit Line at 1-800-QUIT-NOW

For more information, a copy of the law, compliance checklist forms, and other helpful resources visit <http://www.srhd.org/services/tobaccolaw.asp>. This summary is not intended to be comprehensive or to provide an authoritative legal interpretation.

For questions regarding rules,
regulations, compliance, or for
more information, call
(509) 324-1530

