

Questions to Ask before You Rent

If you are concerned about being exposed to secondhand smoke (SHS) community, ask the following questions before you rent about smoke-free policies at the properties you visit. Properties advertised as smoke-free can have very different policies.

1. Find out if the community you are interested in has a non-smoking policy. If so, is the policy verbal or is it written in the lease or house rules?
 - Ask if the policy applies to everyone, or just new residents.
 - Ask if the policy covers indoor common areas and units and outdoors areas including decks, balconies and patios.
2. Ask if there are residents who currently smoke inside or out. If yes, where do they smoke?
 - Ask if they are smoking anywhere in the building and if there is a shared ventilation system, it is likely that SHS may drift into your unit.
 - If they smoke outside near your windows, doors, or balcony, smoke could also drift into your unit.
 - Ask if there is a requirement to smoke so many feet away for the building, for example 25 feet?
3. Ask about enforcement.
 - Does the landlord/manager check to make sure nobody is smoking?
 - How would landlord/manager respond if you made a complaint about a smoking neighbor or guest?
 - If a resident or their guest is smoking, what would be done about it?
 - Are signs posted to make residents and visitors aware of the no-smoking policy?
4. Did the previous tenant smoke? If so, what was done to clean the apartment?
 - The residual odors and contamination from SHS can be hard to eliminate if an extensive cleaning is not done properly.

If you would like more information about smoke-free apartments in the Utah, contact the Utah Department of Health at 801-538-6754, or by [email](#). If you are interested in looking for communities that have a non-smoking policy, visit our smoke-free [directory](#).