

The New No Smoking Policy

Frequently Asked Questions

Is it legal to ban smoking in my apartment?

Yes, smoking is a choice and apartment owners can choose to make their properties smoke free. Property owners can choose to restrict smoking the same way they do noise and pets. Also, HUD supports state and local Public Housing Authorities who choose to be smoke free. SB 332, which gives landlords the authority to ban smoking in multi-unit housing in California, was recently signed into law by Governor Brown and goes into effect January 1, 2012.

What is secondhand smoke and why is HASLO going smoke free?

Secondhand smoke is the smoke that is exhaled by a smoker. It comes from the burning end of a cigarette, pipe, cigar or other product. The Surgeon General of the United States stated in 2010 that "there is no risk-free level of secondhand smoke exposure." Secondhand smoke damages property and increases the risk of fire damage. HASLO wants to protect its property and residents from exposure to secondhand smoke through this lease addendum.

Are there other housing authorities that are smoke free?

So far 20 different cities have public housing authorities in California that are smoke free. These cities include, but are not limited to: City of Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara County, Paso Robles, Kern County, San Joaquin County, City of Sacramento, and Sacramento County.

Where will I be allowed to smoke?

The City of San Luis Obispo, through Ordinance 1545, restricts smoking everywhere where people can be exposed to secondhand smoke. The places you still can smoke are:

- In your car and,
- Any outdoor area in which no non-smoker is present and it is not reasonable to expect another person to arrive who will encounter your tobacco smoke.

You can learn more about City Ordinance 1545 here:

<http://www.slocity.org/specialactivities/smoking.asp>

What is the exemption?

The no-smoking lease addendum gives a one year exemption period for current smokers to be ready to comply with the smoke free policy. This exemption will be temporary and last from December 31, 2011 to December 31, 2012.

What is the date I have to stop smoking in my apartment?

January 1, 2013

Can guests smoke outside of my apartment?

No. Guests can't smoke outside of the apartment because the new lease addendum doesn't allow guests to smoke on the property and it is also forbidden by City Ordinance 1545. Please note that guests are not covered by the exemption.

How will this policy be enforced?

This policy will be enforced on a complaint basis and in compliance with provisions of City Ordinance 1545 and HASLO No Smoking Policy Lease Addendum. Serious repeated violations will be addressed by HASLO staff and treated like any other lease violation. It is not the goal of this policy to punish residents; this policy is intended to protect the health and safety of residents.

How can I quit smoking?

Free quit smoking classes are available in San Luis Obispo. For information call (805) 781-5564. If 10 or more tenants express interest, free quit smoking classes will be given at the HASLO office.