

Questions to Ask

Before Renting or Buying a Multi-Unit Home

If you are thinking about leasing or renting a home, be sure to ask the landlord the following questions to protect yourself and your family:

1. Is there a smoking policy written into the lease or community rules?

If so, does it apply to everyone or just new tenants? Does the rule cover indoor common areas or decks, patios, and balconies?

2. Are there any tenants who currently smoke indoors or out, and where are they smoking? If they are smoking anywhere in the building and there is a shared ventilation system, it is likely that secondhand smoke will get into your unit. If they smoke outside near your windows or doors, it could also drift inside your unit.

3. How is the policy enforced? Does the landlord check to make sure no one is smoking? How would the landlord respond if you made a complaint about a smoking neighbor? What would the landlord do about it?

4. Are signs posted to make visitors aware of the smoke-free policy?

5. Did the previous tenants smoke? If so, what did the landlord do to clean the residence? The odor and residue from secondhand smoke can be hard to get rid of if cleaning is not done properly.

Once you learn the answers to these questions – you can have the peace of mind that you will be living in a clean, healthy, and safe environment.

- Adapted from www.smokefreeoregon.com, "Questions to Ask before Renting or Buying Housing"

