



Tips for creating a designated smoking area at your complex

WHAT IS A DESIGNATED SMOKING AREA?

A designated smoking area is a reserved space for smokers away from the residential buildings. It is an accommodation for the smoking population to isolate smoking and keep smoke away from inside the residential building units (*including balconies and decks*) and all common areas.

SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Signs should be posted at all entrances indicating that smoking is permitted only within the designated smoking area (*which should be at least 20 feet away from all entryways, common areas, outdoor air intakes, and operable windows*).
- Be sure to use UL approved smoking receptacles.
- Clean the area regularly and keep it free from litter.
- Clearly mark the designated smoking area.
- Add the specifics of your smoke-free policy in the lease.

WHAT IS A SMOKING SHELTER?

A smoking shelter is a designated smoking area that has a roof, proper UL approved smoking receptacles, ventilation, and offers year-round safe smoking.

QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN CONSIDERING A SMOKING SHELTER:

- Is the smoking population significant enough to justify it? If not, you can consider transitioning to an entirely smoke-free complex.
- Is there any impact on neighboring buildings?
- How many smokers do you need to accommodate?
- What options do you want included? Electrical, lighting, heating, A/C, exhaust fans, or automatic door openers? Will you build the shelter yourself or will you purchase a kit? Smoking shelter companies offer a wide variety of types and sizes.
- What are the local regulations (if any) for smoking shelters?
- Is the construction fire resistant and contain weather proofing materials? Does it have the proper wind and snow load for weather in your area?

I'M READY! WHERE DO I GO FOR MORE INFORMATION?

- The National Center for Healthy Housing (NCHH), www.nchh.org
- Housing and Urban Development (HUD), www.hud.gov (Type "hud smoke free" in your search engine)
- Smoke Free Apartment House Registry, www.smokefreeapartments.org
- Global Advisors Smoke Free Policy (GASP), www.njgasp.org
- National Apartment Association: www.naahq.org, search "smoke free"

Contact your insurance broker today for more information about significant savings with MiddleOak Specialty's smoke-free discount on your commercial residential insurance.