

# What Should I Do If Smoke Comes Into My Home?

## How to Start

Solving a smoking issue in your home isn't always easy. Start with Step 1, which is the simplest approach, and work your way through the other steps if you are not able to solve the problem. With time and some work on your part, you may find a way to stop the smoke that enters your home.

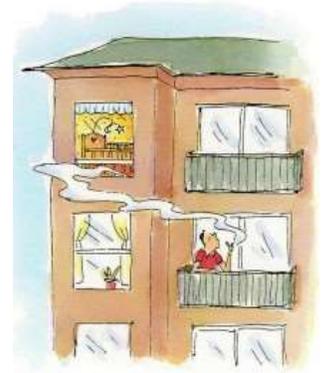


Illustration by Janet Cleland

## Step 1 -Talk to the Smoker

1. **Be polite.** Tell the neighbor how their smoke harms you and your family. Ask them to move their smoking to a specific spot where it will keep you safe. Many smokers do not realize how their smoking affects others and do not want to harm other people.
2. **Try to agree.** The neighbor can smoke outside, smoke away from windows and vents, smoke less often or only during certain hours.
3. **Be flexible and calm.** Reducing the smoke is your goal. Any step that reduces the smoke in your home is a good one.

## Step 2 -Talk to Your Landlord or Property Manager

1. **Ask your landlord for help** by telling them about the problem. Many landlords do not want smoke in their building and may thank you for bringing this to their attention. They will also know if your neighbor's lease allows smoking.
2. **Your landlord may speak with your neighbor** to work out an agreement to reduce the smoke.

### A Record of the Smoking Can Help Solve the Problem

To create a record of the smoking, write down when the smoke comes into your home, the time, date, how often, where it seems to be entering. This helps you to explain the situation to other people calmly and with a focus on solving the problem.

## What can I do if neither the smoker nor the landlord is cooperating?

## Step 3 –Contact 311

**311 is the customer service system for San Francisco.** They can be reached by calling 311 in San Francisco (If outside of San Francisco, call (415) 701-2311 or [www.sf311.org](http://www.sf311.org). ) 311 can connect you with Environmental Health, who can help you if a property owner is not enforcing a no smoking policy. They can also provide you with more information or refer you to other resources.

### San Francisco Drifting Smoke Law

Smoking is not allowed in all **INDOOR COMMON AREAS**, such as halls, laundry rooms, and mail rooms of multi-unit housing buildings. Smoking is allowed in apartment units of buildings if the lease does not mention smoking.

Read the law at [San Francisco Health Code Article 19F](#)

## Step 4- Contact your District Supervisor

**The Board of Supervisors passes city laws.** It is important for them to hear from the people they represent. If enough people write to them about the same issue (drifting smoke), they may be able to create a new law to solve the problem. You can find your Supervisor's contact information at [www.sfbos.org](http://www.sfbos.org)

## Resources on Smoke in Your Home

1. [California's Laws About Landlord Smoking Policies](#)
2. [ChangeLab Solutions – Smoke Free Housing Fact Sheets](#)
3. [San Francisco Tobacco Laws](#)