



Smoke-free Santa Clara Frequently Asked Questions For Public Areas

On February 5, 2019, Santa Clara City Council adopted an updated Smoking and Tobacco Regulations Ordinance (Ordinance No. 1966) that expanded smoking restrictions in many public areas and multi-unit residences. These regulations aim to protect Santa Clara residents, employees and visitors from the harmful effects of secondhand smoke. Smoking restrictions for public areas are summarized below:

1. What does “smoking” include?

Smoking includes the use of cigarettes, cigars, or pipes, electronic and/or battery-operated cigarette or vaporize devices, and cannabis.

2. Where is smoking prohibited in Santa Clara?

Smoking is prohibited in open-air dining areas, public parks, service areas, such as ATMs and transit stops, public places when being used for a public event, such as farmers' markets and parades, and within 30 feet of any operable doorway, window opening, and vent into any enclosed or any unenclosed areas in which smoking is prohibited. Additionally, smoking will be prohibited in multi-unit residences, effective August 1, 2019.

3. What are my legal requirements if I am a business or location where smoking is prohibited?

Under Santa Clara law, owners, operators, and property managers of commercial rental properties are required to:

- Post "No Smoking" signs clearly, sufficiently, and conspicuously in every building, as well as on entrances at eye level, or other places where smoking is prohibited by the law. The posted signs must be a minimum of six inches by four inches.
- Inform employees and patrons who are smoking about the law and ask them to stop smoking.

4. Is there a penalty for smoking in a prohibited area?

Owners, operators, and property managers of commercial rental properties who do not fulfill the requirements listed above and individuals who smoke where smoking is prohibited may be subject to fines and/or prosecution.

5. Where can I get more information, including resources about how to quit smoking?

This FAQ is intended only as a guide for general and easy reference. You can view the full law online at: www.santaclaraca.gov/smokefreesantaclaraca (See Ordinance No. 1996 under the Relevant Documents and Information section). For additional information, contact the City Manager's Office at manager@santaclaraca.gov or 408-615-2210.