



# HOW THE SMOKE-FREE LAW WILL BE ENFORCED

As of December 8, 2005, the Expanded Clean Indoor Air Act prohibits smoking in all indoor public spaces and workplaces throughout the state.

## Frequently Asked Questions

- **Who will enforce the law?**  
Yakima County Health District is responsible for enforcing the law with respect to businesses. Local law enforcement agencies are responsible for enforcing the law with respect to individuals.
- **How will the law be enforced?**  
Health District staff will cite violations observed during routine inspections and, in partnership with the American Lung Association, will respond to reports of violations from the public. Violations or evidence of a violation must be directly observed by Health District or American Lung Association staff to result in a citation.
- **What is considered a violation of the law?**  
Violations of the law include:
  1. Smoking or evidence of smoking inside a public space or workplace, including the presence of smoke, cigarette ashes or cigarette butts;
  2. Lack of "No Smoking" signs that are clearly visible at each entrance.
  3. No action taken to prevent smoking within 25 feet of entrances, exits and windows and ventilation intakes.
- **Are vending machines in bars and restaurants illegal since smoking is prohibited?**  
No. Cigarettes may be purchased from a vending machine but cannot be smoked in the bar or restaurant.
- **How do I deal with people who want to smoke?**  
Tell the individual that the law prohibits smoking indoors and direct him/her to an outside area that is at least twenty-five (25) feet from away from building entrances, exits, ventilation intakes or openable windows.
- **What should I do if someone starts smoking in an area where smoking is prohibited?**  
The owner, operator, manager or person in charge should make a reasonable effort to obtain compliance. Tell the individual that the law prohibits smoking inside your business and ask them to relocate to an outside area that is at least twenty-five (25) feet from away from building entrances, exits, ventilation intakes or openable windows.
- **What do I do about a customer who refuses to comply with the law?**  
It is the responsibility of the business to inform the individual that he/she is in violation of the law. If a customer refuses to stop smoking or relocate to an outside area that is at least twenty-five (25) feet from away from building entrances, exits, ventilation intakes or openable windows, contact your local law enforcement agency.
- **What are the penalties to a business?**  
A business can be cited every day that a violation occurs. Repeated violations will result in referral to the courts for further legal action. The courts may impose additional \$100 fines for each day the business is found to be out of compliance and may take other actions to assure the business obeys the law.
- **What is the 25-foot rule and how do I comply?**  
The intent of the 25-foot rule is to prevent smoke from entering a building. Smoking is prohibited in outside areas that are less than twenty-five (25) feet away from building entrances, exits, ventilation intakes or openable windows and outdoor areas where employees are required to work or pass through. When these outside areas are owned by or within the control of a business the person in charge is responsible for ensuring compliance with the law.



**ENFORCEMENT QUESTIONS**  
Restaurants or bars: 509-249-6516  
All other questions: 509-248-4384



*\*Please note that this summary is not intended to be comprehensive or to provide an authoritative legal interpretation. For more information please refer to the actual text of the law. To download a copy of the law visit the Health District's website at: [www.yakimapublichealth.org](http://www.yakimapublichealth.org)*