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Ohio Smoke-Free Workplace Law



What must I do to comply with the law?

- ▼ Post the State of Ohio "No Smoking" sign with the 866-559-6446 number at the entrance to your business and at all points where employees and customers go from an outdoor area to an indoor area (including outdoor patios)
- ▼ Do not provide ashtrays for inside use and do not allow people to bring their own ashtrays into your business. Remove all ashtrays, including but not limited to Altoid or Altoid type tins, beer and pop cans, bottles, or any other receptacle that is used to dispose of cigarette butts and/or ashes, from areas where smoking is not allowed. Be sure to empty any outside ashtrays in an outside dumpster or trash can.
- ▼ Do not permit smoking in your establishment

What else do I need to know?

- ▼ An ashtray is defined as any receptacle used for disposing of smoking materials including but not limited to ash and filters. So no matter what your customers may be using, it is still considered an ashtray. It doesn't matter whether you provide the ashtray or not, if you fail to remove it, you may be found in violation.
- ▼ The law states a proprietor must take reasonable steps to prohibit smoking including, but not limited to, asking people to quit smoking, when people are smoking in your establishment.
- ▼ Signs can be downloaded for free at the following Website:
<http://www.ohionsmokelaw.gov/sfen/sfsigns.aspx>

What else can I do to assure compliance in my establishment?

- ▼ Build or create an outdoor patio for smokers to use. The outdoor area must be open to the air so that smoke does not build up (as a guide, at least 50% of the wall space must be open). If your outdoor smoking area has a roof, only two walls are permitted. There must be a physical separation of the outdoor smoking area and the inside (a wall) and all doors and windows in that wall, must be kept closed while smoking is occurring on the outdoor patio.
- ▼ Have a written "No Smoking" policy for your establishment and train your employees on enforcement of the law and on your policy.
- ▼ Conduct training for employees on how to deal with customers who refuse to comply with a request to quit smoking.
- ▼ If you serve alcohol at your business, refuse to serve a customer if they refuse requests from you or your staff to stop smoking inside your business.
- ▼ Make areas not covered by the law non-smoking areas; for example, if smokers gather near doorways, make a policy that smokers have to be a certain distance away—there is no specific distance requirement in the Ohio law.
- ▼ If you are a Service Club like a Veterans of Foreign Wars or Fraternal Order of Eagles, create a discipline policy for patrons and/or members that fail to follow your requests to stop smoking inside the club.
- ▼ Talk with other businesses in your neighborhood who comply with the law to find out what works for them.
- ▼ Call your local or State or Local Health Department for questions or concerns you may have on gaining compliance with the law.