

# THIRDHAND SMOKE

## Another Health Concern

"Thirdhand smoke" is the chemical residue left when smoke is no longer visible and smoke particles settle.

- Studies have found the residue contains chemicals from the smoke, including cancer-causing chemicals and heavy metals (lead and cadmium).
- Thirdhand smoke comes from cigarettes, cigars, hookah, and other tobacco products and builds up wherever there is smoking.

### FIRSTHAND SMOKE: AFFECTS SMOKER

Smoking harms the user.

### SECONDHAND SMOKE: AFFECTS SMOKER AND BYSTANDERS

Smoke in the air harms the user and others nearby.

### THIRDHAND SMOKE: AFFECTS THOSE IN PLACES SMOKING HAPPENED

Affects anyone who enters area after smoking has taken place - through skin, mouth, and lungs

**Thirdhand smoke residue clings to clothes, hair and skin, floors, walls, bedding, curtains, toys, and other surfaces.**

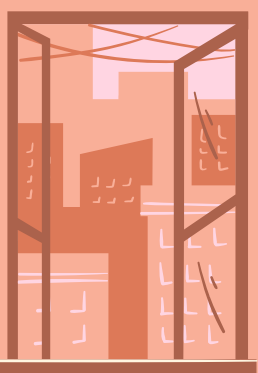
Infants, young children and pets are at greatest risk since they are on the ground more, have different metabolisms than adults, and put more things in or around their mouths.



Smoking in a car leaves thirdhand smoke on car seats, fabrics, and other surfaces



Thirdhand smoke has been detected indoors months after the last cigarette was used, even after cleaning for new residents



Thirdhand smoke is not removed by opening the windows, airing out an area, or vacuuming

The only way to protect non-smokers from thirdhand smoke is to create a smoke-free environment



## IF YOU WANT TO QUIT SMOKING

Call or text the Michigan Tobacco Quitline at **1-800-QUIT-NOW (1-800-784-8669)** for free information and referrals.



### For further information contact:

Karalyn Kiessling (kiessli@umich.edu)  
Manager,  
Smoke-Free Environments Law Project

### Tobacco Section

Division of Chronic Disease and Injury Control  
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services  
Phone: 517-335-8376 | Website:  
[www.michigan.gov/tobacco](http://www.michigan.gov/tobacco)