

City of Palo Alto Public Smoking Restrictions

In 2017, the City of Palo Alto, recognizing the dangers of smoking and secondary smoke, adopted revisions to the City's existing Smoking and Tobacco Regulations ([Ordinance 9.14](#)) to prohibit smoking in designated public spaces, including outdoor dining areas, entryways, public events, recreation areas, and service areas and multi-family residential units. Smoking restrictions for public areas and multi-unit residences are summarized below.

1. Where is smoking prohibited in Palo Alto?

Smoking is prohibited throughout the downtown area, California Avenue, Town and County Shopping Center, Stanford Shopping Center, neighborhood shopping centers and all other designated regional or neighborhood commercial areas in the City's Comprehensive Plan, EXCEPT where designated smoking areas that are at least 25 feet from buildings and provide for cigarette butt receptacles and maintenance have been set up by a shopping center and business district and approved by the City. In addition, smoking is prohibited in all workplaces and public places, service locations, outdoor dining, public parks and open space and public events.

2. I am a business owner, operator or manager in a commercial area, what am I required to do?

With the exception of service locations, wherever the ordinance prohibits smoking, conspicuous "NO SMOKING" signs must be posted.

3. Are there fines for smoking in a prohibited area?

Yes. The first violation may result in a fine of not exceeding \$250, a second violation not exceeding \$300 and each additional violation with the same year results in a fine not exceeding \$500.

4. What should I do if I see someone violating the ordinance?

If you are a business, retail store or restaurant, please ask an employee to alert your customer to the smoking restrictions. If you are walking down the street or in another public place, you can ask the smoker to extinguish their cigarette, cigar or pipe. If you are uncomfortable doing so, or the person refuses your request, please call the Palo Alto Police dispatch at (650) 329-2413.

For additional information

www.cityofpaloalto.org/smokingordinance

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