

SMOKE-FREE FORT WORTH

Fort Worth Smoke-Free Ordinance What You Need to Know

Fort Worth has joined over 900 cities nationally and 25 states in going smoke-free. **The city's smoke-free ordinance goes into effect on March 12, 2018.** In addition to smoking restrictions that already existed in the city ordinance, there will be new restrictions on smoking and vaping (electronic smoking devices) in many locations across the city.

Why is this ordinance important?

This ordinance protects the public's health by reducing exposure to secondhand smoke and encouraging smokers to quit. Tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of death in the United States. It causes cancer, heart disease, stroke, lung diseases (such as COPD & emphysema), and diabetes. More than 20 million people in the United States have died from smoking-related diseases since 1964, including 2.5 million nonsmokers as a result of exposure to secondhand smoke.

Where is smoking and vaping prohibited indoors?

- **Bars**
- **Bingo Halls**
- **Restaurants** (existing)
- **Hotels and motels** (up to 25% of the total number of rooms may be designated as smoking rooms)
- **Workplaces**
- **Schools**
- **Private clubs**
- **Common areas of multi-unit housing**, including apartment complexes and condos
- **Buildings and vehicles** owned, leased, occupied or operated by the city or state
- **Prisons** and other correctional facilities
- **Most other public places** (enclosed by two or more walls/barriers)
Examples: Hospitals, health clinics, nursing homes, long-term care facilities, museums, galleries, public buses, retail stores, retail service businesses, sports arenas, theaters

Where is smoking and vaping prohibited outdoors?

- **Workplaces**, such as construction sites
- **Within 20 feet of a public entrance or exit**

Where is smoking and vaping allowed?

- **Private residences**, except when used as a child care, adult day care or health care facility
- **Private vehicles**
- **Private or semi-private room** in a nursing home or long term health care facility that is occupied by persons who smoke and have requested in writing to be placed in a room where smoking is permitted
- **Hotel and motel rooms** that comply with (Sec. 29.5-4): up to 25% of the total number of rooms in the hotel/motel rented to guests may be designated as smoking rooms

- **Retail smoke shops and cigar lounges**, in standalone physical facilities or that operate an air ventilation system that prevents the migration of smoke into neighboring facilities; A retail smoke shop is defined as a store that derives 90% or more of its gross annual sales from the sale of tobacco, cigarettes, smoking and electronic smoking devices, or related products and accessories and does not sell alcoholic beverages for onsite consumption
- **Hotel and motel conference or meeting rooms** and public facilities while being used for a private function. This exception shall not include restaurants or bars
- **Private clubs**, as defined in the ordinance, as long as the facility is used or operated by the members and is not open to the general public
- **Outdoor dining area and/or patio**, as long as the section of the outdoor dining area and/or patio where smoking is permitted, is more than 20 feet from a primary entrance or openable window of an enclosed area
- **Any facility which is primarily used for exhibiting** any stage, drama, lecture, musical recital or similar performance, when smoking is part of a stage production
- **Any owner, operator, manager or other person who controls an establishment described above in "allowed spaces" may designate the entire establishment as a non-smoking establishment**

What is considered vaping?

As defined in the Fort Worth city code ordinance, **any product containing or delivering nicotine or any other substance intended for human consumption that can be used by a person in any manner for the purpose of inhaling vapor or aerosol from the product.** The term includes any such device, whether manufactured, distributed, marketed or sold as an e-cigarette, e-cigar, e-pipe, e-hookah, or vape pen, or under any other product name or descriptor.

How do I comply with the ordinance?

BUSINESS OWNER OR EMPLOYEE

- Post no-smoking signs
- Remove ashtrays
- Ask individuals smoking or vaping on the premises in violation of the ordinance to stop.
- If an individual does not stop, refuse service and ask the individual to leave the premises

PATRON OR EMPLOYEE

- Do not smoke or vape in any area where smoking or vaping is prohibited.

To report noncompliance/violation complaints, contact City of Fort Worth Code Enforcement: 817-392-7255

What are the penalties for noncompliance?

Any person, firm or corporation who violates, disobeys, omits, neglects or refuses to comply with or who resists the enforcement of any of the provisions of this ordinance shall be fined not more than **five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for each offense.** Each day that a violation is permitted to exist shall constitute a separate offense.