



## VENTILATION MYTHS

Air filters, purifiers and ventilation systems do not remove all the chemicals in second-hand smoke and should not be considered viable alternatives to smoking bans in multi-unit dwellings. The scientific evidence proves that ventilation and air-cleaning systems do not provide effective protection against the health hazards of second-hand smoke. While ventilation and related methods can clear some of the smoke from the air, there is no ventilation system that can remove enough toxins to effectively protect the public from the dangers of second-hand smoke.

Some facts to consider:

- Second-hand smoke can drift from one residence to another through cracks in walls, doorways, plumbing and electrical systems, heating and air conditioning ducts, and outdoor patios and balconies. Once the smoke enters your home, many of the dangerous chemicals remain in the air and settle on surfaces, like walls, drapes, carpets, furniture and clothes.
- Current heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems do not eliminate exposure to second-hand smoke. Rather, the operation of these systems can distribute second-hand smoke throughout a building.
- James Repace, an internationally recognized second-hand smoke physicist, reports that tornado-like levels of ventilation would be necessary to reach an acceptable risk level of exposure to second-hand smoke.
- The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE), the pre-eminent U.S. body on ventilation issues, has concluded that ventilation technology cannot be relied on to control health risks from exposure to second-hand smoke. ASHRAE states, "Currently, the only way to effectively eliminate health risks associated with indoor exposure is to ban smoking activity."

Sources: [US Surgeon General Report](#), [James Repace, Biophysicist](#) and [The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air Conditioning Engineers](#)