



SHARE CLEAN AIR

If Your Neighbor Smokes, So Do You!

Why smoke cannot be contained in a smoker's apartment

There is widespread agreement among U.S. health and building authorities that it is impossible to prevent the spread of secondhand smoke in multi-family housing. There are three primary ways that smoke spreads from a smoker's unit to their neighbors' units:

■ **THROUGH HALLWAYS:**

Smoke spreads from a smoker's apartment into the hallway through the gaps around the door to the unit. Once the smoke is in the hallway, it flows into neighboring units through similar gaps around their front doors. Weather-stripping a front door can reduce the passage of smoke, but it cannot eliminate it. In the Christopher, the ventilation system is designed to bring fresh outside air into the hallways and under unit doors to provide outside air to all units. If this air is contaminated with smoke, it will expose everyone on the floor to a proven health hazard.

■ **THROUGH COMMON (SHARED) WALLS:**

All of our shared walls have a large continuous gap along the bottom of the wallboard (behind the baseboard) that allows smoke to

leak from one apartment to another. There are also openings at electrical and plumbing penetrations that allow smoke to freely pass from one apartment to another. These openings can be sealed, but no amount of sealant will completely stop the passage of smoke through shared walls.

■ **FROM OUTSIDE THROUGH WINDOWS AND BALCONY DOORS:**

Secondhand smoke from balcony smokers flows into our apartments through open windows and balcony doors. Even if all windows and doors are closed, smoke leaks in around the window and door frames because none of our windows and doors are leak tight.

The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) states that enhanced ventilation and air cleaning mechanisms (including portable air filters) cannot prevent the adverse health effects of secondhand smoke. ASHRAE also states that the only means of effectively eliminating the health risks associated with indoor exposure to secondhand smoke is to ban smoking activity.