

# How a Home Becomes Polluted by Commercial Tobacco

## A New Home is Built

This house was just built and has never been smoked or vaped in. It's just waiting for the right family to move in.



## Someone Smokes or Vapes in the Home

The new owners allow smoking or vaping in or just outside the home. Chemical residue begins to stick to the walls, floors, and furniture.



## Toxic Chemical Residue Accumulates

Over time, chemical residue (also called thirdhand smoke or aerosol) builds up in the home. Visitors notice a stale tobacco smell. It's difficult to remove and dangerous for humans and pets.



## The Home Goes Back On the Market

Before putting their house on the market, the owners paint the walls and clean the carpets. This temporarily masks stains and odors, but the chemical residue remains.



## Bad News for the New Owners...

They don't smoke or vape, but the chemical residue seeps back out of the walls. The stale odor returns, exposing the new owners to toxic chemicals. Removing chemical residue from smoking or vaping requires costly renovations.



*Published May 2025. Funded by the Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program #T33PC6863 and #T32PT6244.*