Californians Want to Know if Their Future Home Is Polluted by Thirdhand Smoke



Tobacco smoke residue, or "thirdhand smoke," is the toxic chemical residue left behind long after smoking stops.

Over 25 California Proposition 65 chemicals, known to cause cancer or reproductive harm, have been identified in thirdhand smoke.





In California, thirdhand smoke is not legally required to be disclosed, and buyers are not required to receive any education as they do with other environmental hazards.

Diane*, Real CA Homeowner

I recently purchased a home and unbeknownst to me the previous owner smoked in the house since 1993. I am unable to reside in the house. I immediately feel nauseous and get headaches...

It appears the seller covered up the smell by painting over everything that could be painted, using air freshener, air purifiers and airing out the house prior to my viewing...

I have had a contractor and another smoke remediation expert out and both believe that so much damage has been done that the only way to get rid of it is by tearing everything out and start rebuilding.



*Name has been changed for privacy.

96%

of California residents
want to know if the
home they are about
to buy contains
tobacco smoke
residue.²⁶



73% *******

of **California real estate agents** surveyed support adding thirdhand smoke to the *California Residential Environmental Hazards Guide*.



53%



of California home appraisers surveyed support including evidence of thirdhand smoke as part of standard appraisal reports.

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