

How Does the Smoke-Free Law Apply to Historic Buildings that are Open to the Public?



From 1 July 2007 almost all enclosed public places and workplaces are required by law to be smoke-free. This includes stately homes, castles and other historic buildings.

What does the smoke-free legislation require?

- That people do not smoke inside the building.
- That no-smoking signs are prominently displayed at entrances that are normally used by staff and visitors.

Does the law require that the no-smoking signs are fixed to entrance doors or the fabric of the building etc?

No. The law only requires that signs are displayed at entrances. Ways in which a no-smoking sign could be displayed include the following:

- On a notice board inside a porch.
- On a fold out notice board that is placed at the entrance door, when the building is open.
- On a board that can be hung from a door latch or handle, when the building is open.

What sort of sign is required?

The law requires that the sign is of at least A5 size, displays the international no-smoking symbol and has written on it:

No smoking. It is against the law to smoke in these premises

Can open fires, candles and oil lamps still be used?

Yes they can. The law only applies to tobacco and other substances that people smoke.

Does the smoke-free law apply to parts of an historic building that are used as a private dwelling?

No the law does not apply to parts of the building that are not open to members of the public or to staff.

Are there any other implications?

If your building is listed you may need consent to display signs on the outside of the building, erect a smoking shelter or install litter bins. We recommend that you contact our Historic Buildings Officer for further advice.

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Where to get advice?

Contact your local Environmental Health Department to speak to an officer or to arrange an advisory visit:

- Breckland District Council Telephone **01362 656870**

You can also log onto the Smokefree England website at www.smokefreeengland.co.uk for information about going smoke-free.