



Frequently Asked Questions

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Tobacco-Free State Properties

What is the definition of state properties?

State properties are defined as those owned, leased, occupied, or used by the State and/or its employees. There will be no allowances made, as this is an [Executive Order](#) by the Governor. Tobacco-free campuses and property not only encourage tobacco users to quit, they also protect employees, clients, and visitors from exposure to the toxins in secondhand smoke.

Will employees be allowed to use tobacco in their personal vehicles?

No. If the vehicle is on state owned, leased, or occupied land, tobacco use is not permitted inside the vehicle.

Will employees be able to have tobacco products in their personal vehicles?

Yes. Staff can possess tobacco in their vehicles, but cannot use it in their vehicles while on state property.

Will employees be able to bring tobacco products into the work site and store them in lockers, desks, offices, etc.?

Yes. Staff can possess tobacco within their work site (desk, purse, locker, etc.), but cannot use it until they are off state property.

Will visitors be allowed to bring and leave tobacco products in their vehicles?

Yes. Visitors can possess tobacco in their vehicles, but cannot use it in their vehicle while on state property.

Are electronic cigarettes allowed?

No. The Executive Order expressly prohibits all tobacco use on state properties, including but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, pipes, chew, snuff, electronic cigarettes, and smokeless tobacco.

Will employees be able to use nicotine gum or other smoking cessation devices on state property?

There are [six FDA-approved tobacco cessation devices](#) that are exempt from the order and that you are allowed to use on DOC property.

What is DOC's liability for staff using tobacco on non-state property?

DOC does not control the use of tobacco on non-state property locations.

Will there be an exception to the policy for properties where it is difficult for a smoker to leave, smoke, and return to the property during a short break?

No. It is the employee's responsibility to manage his or her tobacco use while at work just as it is his or her responsibility to manage any other activities while at work. Breaks are established by employment law and bargaining contracts. For employees ready to quit, PEBB offers excellent cessation benefits, or anyone can call the Oregon Tobacco Quit Line at 1-800-QUIT-NOW.

What do employees do with assigned keys and radios when they are on smoke breaks?

Employees leaving state property for a smoke break must follow DOC Policies on [Keys and Locks](#) and [Post Orders](#).

What if I see a staff member smoking on campus?

Enforcement of the tobacco-free state campus policy is everyone's responsibility. If you see someone smoking on a state property campus, you are encouraged to ask that person if he or she is aware of the State of Oregon's tobacco-free campus policy, but you are not required to do so. Most tobacco users will be happy to comply with the policy once they are made aware of it. If a particular employee is seen repeatedly violating the policy, please mention it to the employee's manager or report it to your supervisor.

How will failure to comply with the Executive Order be reported?

Failure to comply with the tobacco-free state properties Initiative will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis, just like any other alleged misconduct.

What level of discipline will be required?

Discipline for failure to comply with the Executive Order will be addressed on a case-by-case and progressive basis, just like any other form of misconduct.

Will due process need to be invoked?

Due process will be invoked depending on the level of misconduct, just like any other alleged misconduct.

What resources are available to help employees quit smoking or using tobacco?

There are many resources available to employees to help them quit, and most are free. PEBB provides employees excellent quitting benefits including telephone coaching, nicotine replacement therapy (patches, gum, lozenges) and medication. PEBB members can visit www.oregon.gov/DAS/PEBB/pages/freeclear.aspx or call 1-866-QUIT-4-LIFE (1-866-784-8454). Those not covered by PEBB or other insurance can also receive help through the Oregon Tobacco Quit Line at 1-800-QUIT-NOW (1-800-784-8669), or by visiting www.quitnow.net/oregon.

Could the Tobacco Free Property message be given at in-service and new employee orientation?

Yes. The Professional Development Unit will develop a message on the Tobacco Free Properties Initiative to be delivered at New Employee Orientation and In-service Training.