

Guidelines for a locating a Designated Smoking Area

The healthiest situation is for a facility to be completely smoke/tobacco-free. In the absence of a tobacco-free policy using the following guidelines to locate a designated smoking area (DSA) is the next best alternative. A DSA at your facility will reduce the number of people involuntarily exposed to secondhand smoke, reduce litter caused by cigarette butts, and contribute to an environment that encourages healthy behaviors.

DSAs should be located:

- Away from doors, windows, and entry/exit ways
- Away from congregate areas such as: dining tables, benches, shade trees, and water fountains
- Away from landscaping: flowers, trees, potted plants

Avoid these common mistakes with DSAs:

- Locating them in a highly visible area and inadvertently providing cues to smoke
- Locating them in a highly visible area and creating the false impression that unhealthy behaviors are encouraged
- Decorating the area with gazebos, planters, benches and other adornments making tobacco use more appealing and coupling the behavior with positive reinforcement like socializing.