



Secondhand Smoke

Directions: Read the story, then answer the questions. Write your answer in the space provided or circle the letter next to the correct answer.

Did you know that even if you don't smoke you experience the same effects? If you are around a smoker, it is very likely that you will breathe in some secondhand smoke. This includes the smoke which they exhale as well as the smoke from the burning end of their cigarette, cigar, or pipe. Smoke from the burning end of a tobacco product is called *sidestream* smoke. While some chemicals from the cigarette get trapped in the body of the smoker, many of the same chemicals that a smoker inhales are found in secondhand smoke. Every year up to 300,000 children experience lung infections from this type of smoke and nearly 53,000 people each year die from the ultimate effects of secondhand smoke! It can also affect your pets, causing them to have lung disease, heart disease, and possibly cancer. Opening a window, seating smokers away from others, or blowing the smoke in another direction is not enough to stop the damage. Smoke disperses through the air much like placing a single drop of red food coloring in a cup of water. If you are in a room with a smoker significant amounts of smoke will eventually drift away from the smoker into the general environment and even the best room filters cannot remove it all.

1. Sidestream smoke comes from:

- a. the exhaled breath of the smoker
- b. smoke that is not filtered out of a room
- c. the burning end of a cigarette, cigar, or pipe
- d. smoke which is blown away from the non-smoker

2. How many people each year die from the effects of secondhand smoke?

- a. over 50,000
- b. nearly 300,000
- c. nearly 350,000
- d. less than 50,000

3. Describe what is meant by dispersion:

4. Why is secondhand smoke dangerous?
