

Hard, Yes. Impossible, No.

Tips for Quitting Smoking



If you are like many smokers and other tobacco users, you know you should quit, but just aren't sure how to do it. Creating a quit-smoking plan will improve your chances of stopping for good and cope with the physical, emotional, and social issues that come up when you stop smoking.

Pick a quit day within the next month to quit smoking. Don't set your quit day too far in the future and be sure you have a plan in place. Setting the date ahead of time can help you prepare for what to expect and to line up helpful support.

Mark the day on a calendar. Your quit day is an important day in your life, so treat it like one. Write down the reasons to quit. Place the list where you can see it regularly.

Talk to your healthcare provider. Ask about stop-smoking counseling and medications. Using one or both greatly improves your odds of success. Call 1-800-QUIT-NOW or 1-800-784-8669 for free quit support or to find other tobacco treatment counseling services in Rhode Island.

Drink plenty of water.

Keep physically active. Walk briskly for 30 minutes a day, at least 4 days a week. This may relieve stress and lift your spirits.

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Let family, friends, and co-workers know about your quit day. Make them your allies. They may provide moral support. Tell them how they can be most supportive while you quit smoking. Find a quit partner. This person can be another person who wants to quit or a friend who'll be there to listen.

Remind yourself of your reasons to stop smoking. Read your reasons for quitting twice a day.

Make your home and vehicle smoke-free. Clean house. If you can, discard blankets, curtains, and other items like clothes that smell like smoke even after washing. Rid your home, car, and other places of your smoking and tobacco supplies. Don't keep any cigarettes on hand "just in case" — you might not be able to resist the temptation. Buy a new toothbrush. You don't want to brush with the old one covered with tobacco.

Stock up. Have on hand items that can substitute for the cigarette you're used to having in your mouth, such as sugarless gum, hard candy, cinnamon sticks, and crunchy vegetables.

Avoid situations and people that trigger your urge to smoke. Try to avoid alcohol, caffeine, and stress. Try to stay away from other smokers for a while.

Tell yourself, "I choose not to smoke." It is an empowering statement! Saying, "I can't smoke" is like saying "I am a victim of a cigarette!" Quitting smoking is hard...but not impossible.

BE PATIENT WITH YOURSELF! YOU WILL BE SUCCESSFUL!



www.livesmokefree.ri.gov

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