

STRATEGIES

from ex-smokers to curb cravings

Having trouble quitting tobacco? Try these strategies to curb the craving during common high-risk situations where you could slip or relapse back to smoking.



Waking up

get right into the shower, brush teeth, go for a walk or exercise, get busy, change your morning routine.



Morning coffee

buy coffee on the way to work, skip coffee, wait until work to have coffee, switch to iced coffee.



When hungry

don't let self get too hungry, eat healthy meals, carry snacks with you, eat fruit, drink a lot of water or fat-free milk before you eat.



After meals

don't overeat, don't linger at the table, clean up immediately after eating, go for a brisk walk, make tea, have a popsicle, don't go into a typical smoke area after eating, use straws or toothpicks.



In the car

listen to a book on tape/CD, try new music, take a different route to work, avoid going into a gas station/store where cigarettes are easily seen, keep windows rolled up, have car cleaned to get rid of cigarette smell.

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Breaks at work

avoid walking by smokers' break area, avoid leaving the building, bring something else to do like a book to read, talk or walk with non-smoking co-worker.



Stressed at work

ask for help, take a break, try deep breathing, call someone for support, avoid going outside, call a helpline.



End of workday

find other ways to reward self at the end of a long day (iced drink or magazine), drive a different way home, stay busy, do something enjoyable after work, exercise after work.



While on the phone

talk in a room you don't usually smoke in, have something to keep hands busy while on phone, doodle on paper, stretch, use a stress ball.



With partner who is smoking

ask partner not to smoke in front of you or in the home, don't sit next to them when s/he is smoking, ask them to hide cigarettes when not using them, ask them not to give you one even if you ask.



While working on home tasks

do fewer tasks in the beginning, use oral alternatives such as gum, mints, straws, or lozenges, ask for help, take lemonade or popsicle breaks.



Fighting with partner

try to avoid heated discussions for the first few days, if it gets too tense leave the house, exercise, find a fun activity, call friends for support, call a Helpline, go to mall or movies where you cannot smoke.



Waking up during the night

do a calm activity such as reading or watching TV in a room you don't usually smoke in.



While doing work at home

work in a different area of the house that you usually don't smoke in, use gum, mints, or other alternatives while doing work, try to avoid bringing extra work home.

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At the computer

if cravings get to be too much then get off the computer, do other activities, exercise, or try using low-calorie alternatives like veggie snacks, use gum or mints.









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