

# IS THERE A METH LAB IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD?

## WHAT IS METH?

Methamphetamine (meth) is a highly addictive drug that creates a long-lasting high. Meth can have toxic effects that lead to permanent damage of the brain and other vital organs and can cause seizures, strokes, and even death.

Meth is “cooked” in illegal labs and can be found in many forms, including pills, powder, and chunks, and can be smoked, snorted, injected, or swallowed. Common street names for meth include crank, crystal, speed, or ice.

## HOW DO I RECOGNIZE A METH LAB?

Meth labs can be set up nearly anywhere, but are often found in rental homes, apartments, motel rooms, campgrounds, rest areas, barns, vacant buildings, storage sheds, and RVs. Meth is made using many common household chemicals.

### Common supplies include:

- Medication containing pseudoephedrine
- Plastic tubing, funnels
- Coffee filters
- Camp stove fuel
- Acetone, alcohol, starter fluid, or toluene
- Iodine
- Lithium batteries
- Hydrochloric acid and lye
- Matchbooks or flares



### Warning signs of a meth lab:

- Strong chemical odors
- Blacked out windows
- Excessive trash
- Increased activity, especially at night

## Clandestine Drug Lab Cleanup Program

## **ARE METH LABS DANGEROUS?**

An active meth lab presents the greatest risk of illness and injury. Many of the substances used to make meth are toxic and some can catch fire or explode. Meth cooks may also set up dangerous booby traps to secure their site.

When a lab is “busted” the hazardous chemicals and the cooking supplies are removed from the site. However, meth residue, spilled chemicals, hypodermic needles and debris remain on floors, counters and other surfaces. Exposure to these items may cause both temporary symptoms (nose and throat irritation, headaches, dizziness, nausea) and permanent damage (burns, decreased mental function, kidney damage and birth defects).

**It is important to note that if members of the public stay out of structures and off the property, there is very little health risk.**

## **WHAT IF I SUSPECT A METH LAB IN MY AREA?**

**DO NOT ENTER** a site that you think is being used, or was used, to cook meth. Drug labs are considered dangerous and should only be entered by trained professionals. Never handle items that you suspect were used for meth production because contact could result in poisoning or burns, and exposing certain chemicals to water or air could cause an explosion. Only trained professionals will be allowed on the property until it is properly cleaned up and receives a Certificate of Fitness.

If you suspect a meth lab, call your local sheriff’s office or police department.

**In an emergency, call 911.**

### **Clandestine Drug Lab Cleanup Program**

800 NE Oregon St., Suite 608

Portland, OR 97232-2162

Phone (971) 673-0195

Fax (971) 673-0457

[www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/druglab](http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/druglab)

If you need this document in another format call (971) 673-0195.