

Is There a Meth Lab In My Neighborhood?

What is Meth? Methamphetamine (meth) is a powerful, highly toxic, addictive drug that is illegally “cooked” in makeshift labs. Meth can be found in the form of pills, capsules, powder or chunks; it can be smoked, snorted, injected or eaten. Meth is also called crank, speed, crystal or ice.

How to recognize a meth lab:

Meth labs may be anywhere--at campgrounds, rest areas, rental homes, motel rooms, abandoned cars, garages, storage sheds, or vacant buildings. Labs are frequently abandoned, and often, the potentially explosive and very toxic chemicals are left behind. Chemicals may also be burned or dumped elsewhere.

Warning signs:

- Strong odor of solvents;
- Residences with windows blacked out;
- Iodine- or chemical-stained bathroom or kitchen fixtures;
- Renters who pay their landlords in cash;
- Increased activity, especially at night;
- Excessive trash.

Common meth lab supplies:

- Plastic tubing, funnels, glass containers, empty pill bottles;
- Coffee filters with red stains;
- Lithium batteries;
- Containers of toluene, alcohol, paint thinner, hydrogen peroxide, ammonia, rock salt, iodine, camp stove fuel or charcoal starter fluid;;
- Over-the-counter cold and asthma medications. Typical brands include Sudafed, Revive, and Mini-thins;
- Pressurized cylinders, such as propane tanks, fire extinguishers, or scuba tanks.

What to do if you suspect a meth lab:

- Call law enforcement at 800-585-TIPS (8477). In emergency, call 911
- Don't go inside. Inhaling the hazardous chemicals that can cause injury and even death.
- Don't touch anything. Skin contact can result in burns or poisoning. Handling items can cause an explosion.
- A former meth lab is not safe to enter until trained professionals have properly decontaminated it. Stay away from any former meth site until the Kitsap Public Health District has declared the site “Fit for Use” and removed the contaminated site postings from the property.



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