

METH AWARENESS

Residential and Building Clues

Some clues that might indicate the possible illegal production or sales of drugs:

- Access denied to landlords, neighbors, and other visitors
- Chemical staining on walls and floors
- "Cooks" that have no visible means of support, but make cash purchases and payments
- Covering or blacking-out of windows
- Security measures, such as cameras or baby monitors outside of buildings
- Unusual traffic and activities, such as excessive night traffic, large numbers of visitors with short stays
- Burn pits, stained soil or dead vegetation indicating dumped chemicals or waste
- Waste in trash, pits or illegal dumps, such as:
 - Rags with red and/or yellow stains
 - Large quantities of packaging from ephedrine or pseudoephedrine cold, diet or allergy pills
 - Empty containers from the chemicals listed below.
 - Compressed gas cylinders, or camp stove (Coleman) fuel containers
 - Packaging from Epsom salts or rock salt
 - Propane tanks or coolers containing strong ammonia odors
 - Pyrex/glass/Corning containers, with dried chemical deposits remaining
 - Bottles or containers connected with rubber hosing and duct tape
 - Coolers, thermos bottles, or other cold storage containers
 - Respiratory masks and filters or dust masks
 - Funnels, hosing and clamps
 - Coffee filters, pillow cases or bed sheets stained red (used to filter red phosphorous), or containing a white powdery residue
- Apartments, houses or buildings that smell like chemicals, including sweet, bitter, ammonia or solvent smells

If you suspect a meth lab, leave at once and report it

- **Do not open any coolers, container or boxes!**
- **Do not touch any items!**
- **Handling meth lab chemicals or meth lab waste residue can burn your skin or eyes, and breathing in the gases or fumes can cause severe respiratory damage or death!**

Meth Lab Awareness Clues

Signs of a methamphetamine lab include large quantities of common household products. Used as designed and directed, these household products are generally safe. Mixed together, they can become explosive and/or give off toxic fumes.

Some of the chemicals commonly associated with a meth lab:

- Acetone
- Alcohol (denatured, isopropyl or rubbing)
- Anhydrous ammonia or ammonium sulfate (fertilizer)
- Battery acid (sulfuric acid)
- Bleach
- **Cold or allergy pills containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine**
- Coleman camping fuel (naphtha)
- Drain cleaner (sulfuric acid)
- Drain cleaner (sodium hydroxide), such as "Red Devil" lye
- "Heet" or "Iso-Heet" gasoline additive (methanol or methyl alcohol)
- Hydrogen peroxide
- Iodine (crystal or liquid tincture)
- Lithium batteries
- Matches (source of red phosphorous from striker plates)
- Mineral spirits (methyl chloride)
- Muriatic acid (hydrochloric acid) (driveway/brick/pool cleaner)
- Salt (table or rock)
- Sodium or lithium metal
- Starting fluid (organic ether)
- Trichloroethane (gun cleaning solvent)
- Toluene

Some of the equipment commonly associated with a meth lab:

- Aluminum foil
- Blenders
- Bottles (pop, water, milk)
- Chemistry glassware
- Camp stoves
- Cheesecloth
- Coffee filters
- Cotton balls
- Dust Tape
- Electric hot plates
- Funnels
- Garden spray jugs
- Gas cans
- Hot plates
- Jugs
- Paper towels
- pH test strips
- Plastic tubing
- Pressure cookers
- Propane tanks

- Pyrex dishes
- Rags
- Rubber and latex gloves
- Strainers
- Thermometers
- Thermos bottle



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