

Equipment and Products Frequently Found at Meth Lab Sites

Chemicals: Ephedrine and Pseudoephedrine (Cold Tablets), Acetone, Alcohol (Isopropyl or Rubbing), Toluene, Ether (Engine Starter) Sulfuric Acid (Drain Cleaner), Methanol/Alcohol (Gasoline Additives), Salt (Table/Rock), Lithium (Batteries) Anhydrous Ammonia (Farm Fertilizer) Sodium Hydroxide (Red Devil Lye) Red Phosphorus (Matches) Muriatic Acid, Iodine, Trichloromethane (Gun Scrubber), Sodium Metal.



Equipment: Pyrex or Corning Dishes, Jugs, Bottles, Funnels, Coffee Filters, Cheesecloth, Blender, Rubber Tubing, Paper Towels, Rubber Gloves, Gas Can Tape/Clamps, Hotplate, Strainer Aluminum Foil, Propane Cylinder (20 lb).



Narcotics Tip Line

[972-941-STOP]

City of Plano Police Department
909 14th Street Plano Texas 75074

www.planopolice.org



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Methamphetamine

[A Resource Guide]



There are certain things that you as a private citizen can do to help stop methamphetamine manufacturing in your neighborhood. Drug dealers and methamphetamine manufacturers have common habits which are easily observed by the average citizen. This resource guide provides information to help you recognize these habits and other signs that drug manufacturing may be taking place.

Common Names:

Meth, speed, crystal, glass, crank,
go fast, shards or ice.

What is Methamphetamine?

It's a clandestinely manufactured, long-lasting nervous system stimulant. It is the product of common household cleaner, flammable solvents, corrosive acids and over-the-counter cold medicines.



How is Meth used?

It can be smoked, snorted, injected or taken orally.

What are Meth's effects?

Moderate doses can cause a variety of health problems including rapid and irregular heartbeat, increased blood pressure, skin sores, tooth loss, malnutrition, kidney damage, psychotic episodes, convulsions, and in some, death by overdose.



How is Meth made?

By easily mixing and cooking common household products and over-the-counter cold medicines in kitchen glassware, in a makeshift illegal laboratory. For every one pound of methamphetamine made, 7 pounds of toxic lab waste is produced. Most of this

dangerous toxic waste will be dumped some where in the community.

Are these household products dangerous?

When used as designed, these household products are generally safe. Mixed together, as they are to make methamphetamine, they can become explosive

and/or give off toxic fumes that attack mucous membranes, skin, eyes, and the respiratory tract. They can even kill. Innocent people, including children, have died when methamphetamine labs blew up.



Where are Meth labs?

These illegal labs are often hurriedly set up in bathrooms, basements, garages, the trunks of vehicles and many other places in and around a residence. Hotel rooms have been used as labs. Many neighborhoods have seen these makeshift laboratories. An explosion in one neighborhood filled the air with toxic chemicals.

What are the signs of a Meth lab?

Alone, any of the following signs or activities may not mean that drug dealing or methamphetamine manufacturing is occurring. However, some or several of them happening together may indicate a problem.

- Frequent visitors at all times of the day or night.
- Frequent late night activity.
- Strong chemical odors like ammonia ether, acetone, or cat urine coming from room, house, garbage or buildings.
- People bringing things to trade.
- Windows blackened out or curtains always drawn.
- Children unattended or neglected.
- Children repeatedly kept home from school.
- Unreported fires.
- Reinforced doors and windows.
- People burying trash in their yard or putting trash in other people's trash cans.



- Trash has numerous empty solvent cans, drain cleaners, numerous over-the-counter cold medicine containers, plastic tubing and red stained coffee filters.
- Unemployed, yet drive expensive cars.
- Seem to have plenty of money. Pay bills with cash.
- Unfriendly, appear secretive about their activities.
- Watch cars suspiciously when they pass.
- Paranoid or odd behavior or extensive security.
- Going outside to smoke cigarettes.

What are the homes with Meth labs like?

Often meth homes lack heating, electricity, running water, or refrigeration. Living and play areas may be infested with rodents and insects, including cockroaches, fleas, ticks, and lice. Often waste products are found on the floor, i.e.; rotten food, used needles, used condoms strewn about, dirty clothes, dishes and garbage piled on floors and countertops. Toilets and bathtubs may sometimes be backed up or unusable, because the lab waste and corrosive by-products were dumped into the plumbing.



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