

## Methamphetamine and Meth Labs

### Property Owners

Meth labs can be set up out-of-doors or in homes, vehicles, motels, and abandoned buildings. Meth making leaves behind chemical residues that can contaminate these places where the meth is 'cooked'. The cooking process is dangerous, and the contamination left behind can be harmful to health.

Complete cleanup of labs is necessary before anyone uses the property. It is generally not considered safe for property owners to clean meth lab sites on their own.

According to state law, the sellers of property are required to disclose the fact that if a property has been affected in a way that may interfere with the "use or enjoyment of the property."

If you are currently a property owner or want to buy property, there are several things you can do to find out if the property was formerly used for clandestine drug lab purposes.

- Talk to neighbors about the history of your home.
- Call your local police department or county sheriff to find out if there is a record of any illegal drug lab activity.
- Some signs that may indicate evidence of a former drug lab include: dark stains from chemicals in bathtubs, sinks, or toilets, or on walls; signs of chemical burns or spills; visible areas in the yard where chemicals have been dumped; burn piles in yard with signs of meth ingredients; dead or dying vegetation; chemical odors.

In order to avoid renting to those who make meth, landlords should take the following steps:

- Make sure rental applicants complete application & conduct a thorough background check.
- Take note of any suspicious appearances or behaviors.
- Require a lease & obtain a damage deposit.
- Look around your property regularly taking note of any signs of a meth lab or other illegal activity.
- Announce intention to visit the property regularly.
- Ask for neighbors help in monitoring property.

If you suspect a meth lab on your property, contact local law enforcement immediately. Do not enter an area that you think might be a meth lab.