

Residential Methamphetamine Lab Cleanup Checklist

While there is no method of cleaning that will guarantee complete safety, the procedures described below provide the best current practice for reducing exposures to toxic chemicals used to manufacture methamphetamine. Following the cleanup procedures will help to reduce health risk by reducing exposure to meth.

- Contact the local law enforcement agency to ensure that a hazardous materials response team has removed all bulk chemicals and equipment used to make meth.
- Ventilate the residence before, during and after cleanup.
- Do not attempt to perform cleanup activities without using personal protective equipment including gloves, long sleeves, long pants, sturdy shoes, a dust mask and protective eyewear.
- Remove and dispose of all upholstered furniture, mattresses, carpet, and other non-machine washable items. These materials should be destroyed and double bagged when possible, and quickly disposed of in a landfill to prevent re-use.
- Remove and dispose of clothing, toys, bedding, bottles, and other personal items used by infants and toddlers. Clothing and personal items for older children and adults may be machine washed two times in hot water and detergent.
- Inspect appliances, wall board, ceiling tiles, and plumbing fixtures throughout the entire house. Remove and dispose of all visibly contaminated items, or any items that have an odor. Follow the disposal practices described above. If any plumbing fixtures or drains need to be flushed, removed or replaced, contact a professional.
- HEPA filter vacuum floors, walls, and other hard surfaces.
- Perform a “once-over” washing of the walls and floors with a detergent and water solution. Be sure to change the cleaning solution frequently.
- Clean and seal the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system. Do not run this system again until the all of the cleanup is complete. Replace all filters in the system including window units after cleanup is complete.
- Triple wash and rinse ceilings, walls, floors, furniture and other household items that will not be discarded with a detergent-water solution. Washing should thoroughly cover entire surfaces. Change the cleaning and rinsing solutions frequently.

- If sampling is to be performed, ensure all surfaces are dry before sampling.
- Repaint surfaces after cleaning. An oil-based, epoxy, or polyurethane primer followed by another coat of paint is recommended.
- Ventilate the building for three to five days after cleaning.

In October 2009, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) released Voluntary Guidelines for Methamphetamine Laboratory Cleanup. These guidelines are based on an extensive review of the best available science and practices for cleanup and should be used in addition to the information provided in this fact sheet. A link to the USEPA guidelines follows.

Where can I get more information?

Illinois Department of Public Health
Division of Environmental Health
525 W. Jefferson St.
Springfield, IL 62761
217-782-5830
TTY (hearing impaired use only) 800-547-0466
www.dph.illinois.gov

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
<https://www.epa.gov/emergency-response/voluntary-guidelines-methamphetamine-laboratory-cleanup>