

Your Safety is the Top Priority!

There are many dangers on the roadway other than meth lab waste. Here are a few reminders that will help you stay safe:

- Wear light colored clothing along with your safety vest, work gloves, sturdy shoes, pants, and a long-sleeved shirt.
- Park your vehicle clear of the roadway.
- Face oncoming traffic, stay in a group, only work when visibility is good.
- Do not pick up items on the paved roadway.
- Make sure your roadwork ahead sign is erected.
- Stay away from any hazardous items.
- Be alert for wildlife and poison ivy.
- Don't handle hypodermic needles!



Beware of Meth Lab waste (roadside meth labs)

This pamphlet is intended only as a guideline.

If it is suspicious, don't pick it up!



What is Meth Lab waste?

What do you do when you find it?

People make or “cook” the drug, methamphetamine (meth), using legal, over-the-counter products. Once the cooking process is complete, the “cook” must dispose of the waste from the cooking process.

If you find any of the items listed, or similar items, do not touch, smell or examine them. Meth dumps may contain or be surrounded by potentially hazardous chemicals. If you suspect you have found materials used to make meth, contact the local authorities. If you must leave the area, mark the site with a trash bag tied to a tree or fence, a safe distance from the site.



Common items used in the production of meth

Commonly found meth lab waste may include the following chemicals, equipment or packaging:

- Anhydrous ammonia stored in 20 pound propane tanks, coolers or thermos bottles. The presence of anhydrous in propane tanks is indicated by bluish-green coloring of brass tank valves.
- Common cold pills or diet pills containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine
- Muriatic acid (swimming pool, well, concrete, and stone cleaner/etcher)
- Alcohol or methanol (“Heet” brand gasoline additive or rubbing alcohol)
- Camp stove fuel (“Coleman” fuel) and charcoal starter
- Iodine crystals or liquid
- Sodium hydroxide; sulfuric and hydrochloric acid (“Red Devil” lye and other drain cleaners)
- Red phosphorus (match books or sticks)
- Ether (engine starting fluid)
- Solvents, such as Acetone, Benzene, Toluene, Methyl Ethyl Ketone, Xylene
- Disassembled lithium batteries
- Table salt and rock salt
- Baking dishes and glassware, such as “Pyrex” and “Visions”
- Stained, used coffee filters
- Rubber or plastic hosing
- Duct tape

How to identify meth lab waste



Removable solvent containers in large quantities or with other waste

Any containers with “li level” liquids.

Large quantities of glass and plastic containers, buckets, plastic hose

Any containers with plastic tubing or hoses

Quantities of coffee filters or paper towels with unusual stains.

Drain openers, muriatic acid, red devil lye

Crystal Droxa, iodine, hydrogen peroxide, isopropyl alcohol

Propane tanks painted or corroded brass fittings

Trash bags with an ether, solvent, or ammonia odor.

