

Help Prevent Methamphetamine Manufacturing in Maine

Most methamphetamine in Maine is now produced by small operations, often by people using the “One Pot” or “Shake and Bake” method. These methamphetamine labs can produce less than 2 ounces at a time in about 30 minutes by mixing or shaking ingredients in containers like 20 ounce plastic soda bottles.

- Because this method is portable, producers often discard plastic bottles that may contain toxic or flammable chemicals on the side of the road.
- One Pot labs can be located anywhere someone can hide the common household items used to make methamphetamine and a container for mixing, including homes, hotels, sheds, and cars. They can even be carried in suitcases and backpacks.
- **If you find a discarded plastic bottle that contains an unknown substance, do not pick it up or open it. Call your local police or sheriff and alert them to the possible danger.**

Signs of a Methamphetamine Lab in a Building or Home

- Unusual, strong, chemical-like odors
- Unusual number of chemical containers/bottles/jars
- Covered or blacked out windows
- Lots of traffic, especially at night
- Exhaust fans
- People demonstrating paranoid or odd behavior
- People who are secretive and protective of the area.

IMPORTANT WARNING:
If you suspect methamphetamine related activity always put your own safety first. Leave the scene immediately and contact your local police or sheriff for assistance.

Ingredients Methamphetamine is made using common household chemicals combined with pseudoephedrine or ephedrine, the active ingredient found in cold tablets or diet drugs. Other ingredients and supplies can include:

Coffee filters	Aluminum foil	Lithium batteries	Acetone
Paint Thinner	Starter fluid	Cold packs	Drano
Clear plastic tubing	Matchbook Striker Plates	Fertilizer containing ammonium nitrate	

Who should be aware?

- **Retail business owners & employees who sell products that can be used to manufacture methamphetamine:** pharmacies, auto and building supply stores, propane exchange locations, convenience and grocery stores.
- **Anyone who deals with property:** realtors, landlords, hotel/motel owners and employees, property inspectors and appraisers.
- **Farmers and farm supply store owners and employees:** farmland contaminated by dumping of the chemicals used in methamphetamine production, and agricultural chemicals stolen by methamphetamine producers.

Maine Drug Enforcement Agency Drug Tip Line
1-800-452-6457 All calls are anonymous.

You can also make anonymous reports of drug crime on the MDEA website at www.maine.gov/dps/mdea

or use the smartphone application for Android and iPhone at MyPD.

Public Safety and Environmental Hazards of Methamphetamine Labs

- Mixing the chemicals used in methamphetamine production produces toxic and potentially explosive fumes. Breathing fumes may cause permanent damage to nasal passages, lungs, and the brain.
- Lab cleanup is extremely expensive and beyond the financial capabilities of Maine cities and towns. The average cost of cleanup is about \$5,000 but may cost as much as \$150,000, plus the costs to the property owner.
- Careless disposal of contaminated garbage and toxic chemicals can pollute water supplies and leach into the ground, and chemicals can be dumped in bathtubs and sinks. Labs may have many liquids or substances in marked & unmarked containers. Any substances from a meth lab are deemed hazardous waste.
- Six pounds of toxic waste are produced for each pound of methamphetamine manufactured in labs.

Maine MethWatch 207.621.8118/Website: <http://maineosa.org/prevention/community/meth/methwatch/index.htm>

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