

METH LAB BUST - NOW WHAT?

A Guide for Property Owners

If a methamphetamine lab has been seized on or near your property, be careful!

There may be hazardous materials that could be harmful to your health--such as poisons, corrosives, flammable liquids, or used needles. The following information will help you deal with this upsetting situation.

What happens now? First we'll determine whether or not the property is "unfit for use". We'll post warning signs on the property to protect people from being harmed by possible contamination.

We'll take samples and send them to a lab to see how badly the property is contaminated.

- If the samples are *below* the state's threshold, you can simply clean the site with soap and water, and then occupy it.
- If the contamination is *above* the threshold, we must designate the property as "unfit for use".

What happens if the Health District designates my property "unfit for use"?

- We'll post a warning alerting people that the property is contaminated and that entry is prohibited. We'll also post a "Notice of Contamination" to the property title in the county records database.
- You will not be able to occupy the property until the contaminated structures have been removed, or post-cleanup samples demonstrate it has been cleaned up.

Who can perform the cleanup? You will need to hire a certified decontamination contractor to perform a cleanup. To find one, call us, or click on the certified contractors link at the bottom of our website. We recommend that you collect bids from multiple certified contractors. We may allow for a homeowner to perform the cleanup themselves on a case-by-case basis, depending on the method of decontamination.

When can I reoccupy my property? After cleanup, your contractor will take samples and send them to the lab. When the lab reports to us that the contamination is below the threshold, we'll remove the warning signs, post a "Notice of Decontamination" to the property title, and let you know that you can occupy the property.

Will my homeowner's insurance cover the cost of clean up?

It depends on your homeowner's policy--contact your insurance agent as soon after the bust as possible.



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