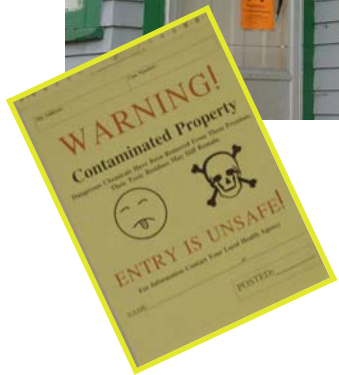


*“Warning! Contaminated property. Entry is forbidden.”*



*“Warning! Contaminated property. Entry is unsafe.”*



4/12/04

Solid & Hazardous Waste Program  
Environmental Health Division  
109 Austin Drive  
Bremerton, WA 98312  
(360) 337-5245



# Meth Labs





In Kitsap County



*Law enforcement response team disassembling an active meth lab*

Be Aware!

Warning signs posted on property means materials may be present that could be hazardous to your health:

-  Poisons
-  Corrosives
-  Flammable liquids
-  Used needles

# What you need to know

Environmental Health Division



# What is “meth?”

Methamphetamine—also called meth, crank or speed—is an addictive and powerful drug. Meth is illegal to use and to manufacture.

What is an illegal meth lab?

The homemade manufacture of methamphetamine is done in “meth labs”. These labs may be located in houses, apartments, garages, motel units, and vehicles.

Dangerous chemicals—solvents, ammonia, metals, and corrosives—are used to make meth. During the process of making or “cooking” meth, toxic fumes, vapors, residues, and liquid chemical wastes are produced as well.

What are the health effects of meth?

The manufacture. The process of making meth may seriously impact the health of the manufacturer or other persons in the structure or residence. Individuals who reside in structures used to “cook” meth risk



Ammonia tanks used in manufacturing

exposure to poisonous chemicals that may enter the body by being breathed or absorbed into the skin through contact. High level exposure can cause shortness of breath, chest pain, burns to skin, eyes, mouth and nose and, in severe cases, death. Long term exposure is believed to cause cancer, organ damage, and birth defects.

The waste. Toxic wastes and residues



Meth burn pit

remaining after the manufacture can contaminate buildings, household furnishings, and the environment.

A meth contaminated site is not safe until it has been cleaned up by professionals who wear protective gear and have been trained in dealing with hazardous materials.

The use. Individuals who use meth by



Used needles

smoking, injecting, snorting, or taking it orally risk serious health impacts. Consequences of meth use can include: brain damage, violent behavior, paranoia, and

hallucinations.

How do I tell if there is a meth lab?

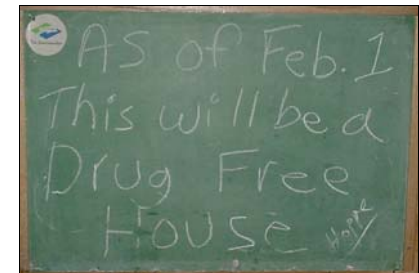
A meth lab may be operating if you see:

- ▶ Windows that are always covered.
- ▶ Frequent visitors at all hours or that only stay for 5-10 minutes.
- ▶ Chemical odors and excessive garbage used in making meth.

Who can I talk to if I have questions?

The Kitsap County Health District determines whether or not a property is meth contaminated and “unfit for use.”

Call the Health District staff at (360) 337-5245 for information about how they sample for meth contamination and what you need to know about getting the property cleaned up. Or check the



website at [www.kitsapcountyhealth.com](http://www.kitsapcountyhealth.com)