

Meth Facts

Street Names

Methamphetamine has many names including *meth*, *speed*, *crank*, *chalk*, *zip*, *cristy*, *crystal*, *ice*, *quartz*, *tina* or *blade* among many others.

Making Meth

Previously available only on the black market for thousands of dollars, the recipe for meth is now accessible free of charge on the Internet. Using common cold medicines such as pseudoephedrine and ephedrine combined with other substances, meth can be made by anyone, almost anywhere. Meth labs have been set up in bedrooms, back yards, trailers, bathtubs, storage units and vans.

Because of the rural nature of the prairie states, as well as a strong agriculture industry that legitimately uses high levels of anhydrous ammonia, theft of anhydrous ammonia, commonly used in the "Birch" meth manufacturing method, has risen sharply. The recent crackdown on the over-the-counter sale of cold medicines has reduced the number of "mom and pop" labs, paving the way for large, sophisticated "super labs" based in Mexico to increase trafficking.

Warning Signs of Meth Use

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| √ Moodiness to severe depression | √ Rapid weight loss |
| √ Increased alertness | √ Disturbed sleep |
| √ Excessive talking | √ Panic, anxiousness, nervousness |
| √ False sense of confidence and power | √ Poor hygiene |
| √ Lack of interest in friends, sex or food | √ Changes in appearance |
| √ Aggressive and violent behavior | √ Many uncompleted projects |

Warning Signs of a Meth Lab

The US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) estimates that 75% of all methamphetamine available in the U.S. today is produced in "super labs" operated by Mexican drug trafficking organizations. But 25% is still be manufactured locally. That means a meth lab could be operating in your neighborhood. Indicators of a meth lab include:

Strong smell of urine, or unusual chemical smells like ether, ammonia or acetone.

Excessive amounts of trash, particularly empty pill bottles or pill blister packaging from cold remedies, or large numbers of cans of camp fuel, paint thinner, starter fluid, lye or drain cleaners

Chemical containers or bottles labeled as containing sulfuric, muriatic or hydrochloric acid

Bottles or jars with rubber tubing attached

Propane tanks with fittings that have turned blue

Curtains always drawn, or windows blackened or covered with aluminum foil on residences, garages, sheds or other structures

Evidence of chemical waste or dumping

Frequent visitors at unusual times

Surveillance cameras