

# METHAMPHETAMINE

*AFFECTS THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY*



**Drug Hotline – 303-651-8585**

**Methamphetamine** trafficking, manufacture, and abuse have been on the rise over the past few years, and as a result, this drug is having a devastating impact on many communities, including ours, right here in Longmont.

Over the past two years, the Longmont Police Department has recorded a significant increase in Methamphetamine cases.

Longmont Police Department  
225 Kimbark Street  
Longmont, Colorado 80501  
303- 651-8555

*“Policing in Partnership  
with the People”*

# Methamphetamines



## THE BASICS

### What is methamphetamine?

Methamphetamine is a stimulant. Nicknames include meth, crank, glass, speed, crystal, STP and others. Until the price of cocaine began dropping, meth was known as “the poor man’s cocaine.” Meth is usually ingested, snorted or injected. A more dangerous form of Methamphetamine, “ice,” can be smoked.

While some Methamphetamine sold on the street is white, much of it is yellowish, or even brown, and is sometimes the consistency of damp powdered sugar. The drug has a strong medicinal smell. It is often sold in tiny “Ziploc” type plastic bags.

### How would I recognize users?

Hard-core meth addicts get very little sleep and they look it. Chronic users and “cooks”(those who manufacture the drug) may have open sores on their skin, bad teeth and generally appear unclean. Paranoid behavior, combined with regular late activity are also potential indicators. Occasional users may not show obvious signs.

## IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD



### What can I do? You can protect your family and property by doing a few minor but very helpful things:

- Watch what goes on in your neighborhood.
- Meet and get to know your neighbors.
- Know if there are any rental properties in the neighborhood and who the landlords are.
- If you notice anything suspicious **CALL THE POLICE!**
- You may provide information and remain anonymous.

### What do I look for?

- The smell of chemicals or solvents not associated with residential housing.
- The presence of chemical glassware such as flasks, beakers, rubber tubing and condensers.
- Garbage containing broken flasks, beakers, glass cookware, or other chemical paraphernalia
- A high volume of pedestrian or vehicular traffic, often remaining at a home only for a brief time. Traffic may increase on certain days, during the weekend or late at night.
- Various obvious signs of drug use, such as people exchanging packets for cash, using drugs while sitting in their cars, or syringes or other paraphernalia lying around.

## What Every Retailer Should Know



### Prevention

- Learn and watch for the early indicators of possible drug lab activity listed in the previous section.
- Require that each person who purchases suspicious items show a photo ID. Record driver's license numbers or other identifying data from the documents.
- Visually check and then write down the license plate numbers of customers purchasing suspicious items.
- If the indicators are strong enough, consider refusing to sell the items to them.
- Call your local law enforcement immediately (911) if you become convinced that a customer is purchasing items to be used in the illegal manufacture of controlled substances.



## What Hotel and Motel Operators Should Know

This information has been prepared to help you recognize customers who may be purchasing materials for use in the manufacture of illegal substances. Besides being illegal, clandestine laboratories are extremely dangerous. Possible risks include explosions, fire, exposure to toxic chemicals, and even unintended confrontation with armed meth "cooks." In addition, the costs can be high – toxic contamination left behind must be cleaned to State specifications.

Once the operator has the equipment in place and chemicals collected, it doesn't take long to cook the drugs – the more experienced cooks can do it anywhere from 30 minutes to 5 hours for one batch. Clandestine labs have been set up in all manner of living quarters, from motel rooms and RVs, to single family rentals or apartment units. In general, lab operators favor seclusion. In rural settings, it's barns or houses, well away from other residences. In urban settings, it might be houses with trees or shrubs blocking the views or hotel rooms that are well away from the easy view of management.

### What to look for

As you review the list, keep in mind that most items are not significant unless seen in conjunction with others.

### Early Indicators

- Guests who list a local address at registration yet indicate a desire to stay for many days  
A willingness to pay for multiple nights in advance, particularly in cash.

### **Other Indicators**

- Refusal of maid service, or requests to cancel service for the duration of the visit.
- Removal or covering of smoke detectors.
- Water running in bathrooms or kitchen facilities for long periods of time.
- The odor of ether, chloroform, ammonia, or other chemicals not typically associated with a guest's room.
- The presence of bottles or jugs used for secondary purposes, such as milk jugs and screw top beer bottles, which are full of mysterious liquids.
- The presence of hot plates and glass cookware.
- Quantities of small "Ziploc" type plastic bags- the type that jewelry or beads are sometimes kept in.
- Large amounts of cold or diet pills.
- The presence of any obvious evidence, such as bags of white powder, syringes, or other drug paraphernalia.

### **If You Find A Meth Lab**



- **Leave immediately.** You will not know which chemicals are present, whether or not the place is booby trapped, or how clean the operation is. Don't stay to figure it out! Do not open containers or attempt to smell any item or the contents of any container. Do not turn on, turn off, or unplug anything. Do not touch anything!

If you are not sure you have discovered a lab, but think you may have, don't stay and investigate. Make a mental note of what has made you suspicious and get out.

- **Check your health and wash up.** As soon as possible after leaving the unit, wash your face and hands and check your physical symptoms. If you have concerns about symptoms you are experiencing, call your doctor, contact the emergency room, or call the poison control center for advice.

Even if you feel no adverse effects, change your clothes and take a shower as soon as possible. Whether or not you can smell them, the chemical dust and vapors of an active meth lab can cling to your clothing the same way that cigarette smoke does. In most cases, normal laundry cleaning will decontaminate the clothing.

- **Alert your local police.** Contact the Longmont Police Department at 303-651-8555. If it is after hours, call 911. These reports often receive priority and are investigated quickly due to the dangers associated with clandestine drug lab activity. Call the LPD Drug Hotline at 303-651-8585 if you want to remain anonymous.
- **Arrange for a certified clean up.** Before you rent the property again, you must comply with clean up requirements. Begin by getting whatever information is available from Longmont Police Department or Longmont Fire Department's hazardous materials unit.

It is important to note that illegal drug lab activity may contaminate more than the one room in which the cooking occurred. As such, more than one room may require decontamination before rental. Therefore, it is important for health and for business to begin the process for decontamination as quickly as possible.



### **Lab Clean Up and the Law**

Colorado State Law does not specifically address property contamination by clandestine drug labs. The law, however, does place restrictions on hotels and motels to make sure the rooms they rent are not a hazard to the community. Colorado State Health Department regulations and State and County building codes regulate the fitness of occupied dwellings, including hotel and motel rooms.

If the premises are a contaminated lab site, it makes it difficult to sell and unlawful to rent. Should you fail to clean up a lab site, new laws allow buyers the potential to void contracts. If you allow guests to stay in a contaminated room, you risk substantial legal action from anyone who suffers health problems.

Depending on the level of contamination present, clean up may be as simple as a thorough cleaning of all surfaces, or as complex as replacing drywall. On very rare occasions, demolition of the entire structure is required. Whether the process is simple or complex, you should use a contractor trained and licensed by the Health Department to assure the work is done correctly.

# Chemicals and Equipment Frequently found at Methamphetamine Lab Sites:

## Household Equipment List

Tempered Glass Baking Dishes  
Glass Pie Dishes  
Glass or Plastic Jugs  
Bottles  
Measuring Cup  
Turkey Baster  
Glass Jars  
Funnels  
Coffee Filters  
Blender  
Rubber Tubing  
Paper Towels  
Rubber Gloves  
Gasoline Can  
Plastic Tote Box  
Plastic Jugs  
Tape  
Clamps  
Hotplate  
Strainer  
Aluminum Foil  
Propane Cylinder (20-lb)  
Books (Meth lab Instruction)

## Chemical (Source)

Ephedrine (Cold & Allergy Medicine)  
Pseudoephedrine (Cold & Allergy Medicine)  
Alcohol (Rubbing/Gasoline Additive)  
Toluene (Brake Cleaner)  
Ether (Engine Starter)  
Sulfuric Acid (Drain Cleaner)  
Methanol (Gasoline Additive)  
Lithium (Camera Batteries)  
Trichloroethane (Gun Scrubber)  
Anhydrous Ammonia (Farm Fertilizer)  
Sodium Hydroxide (Lye)  
Red Phosphorus (Matches)  
Iodine (Veterinarian Products)  
Sodium Metal (Can be made from Lye)  
MSM (Animal Product)  
Table Salt/Rock Salt  
Kerosene  
Gasoline  
Muriatic Acid  
Campfire Fuel  
Paint Thinner  
Acetone

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