

Voluntary Guidelines for Methamphetamine Laboratory Cleanup

Site Survey Steps

1. Compile a description and diagram of the site that includes: address, description and location of all structures; the layout of the property; and a description of adjacent properties and structures. For structures, the diagram should document the size and location of all rooms, how the rooms connect and their expected use. In addition, the location of doors, windows, the ventilation system and appliances should be noted on the diagram. This description should include interior surfaces (e.g., walls, ceilings, floors, countertops) and any furnishings that remain on-site after gross removal.
2. Document areas of heaviest contamination. These areas could be identified by visible evidence of contamination (such as staining) or based on the professional judgment of the assessor. If visible signs of contamination do not exist, this does not mean there is no contamination. Contamination may be encountered throughout the structure.
3. Determine or confirm the cooking method(s) employed during the manufacturing process.
4. Determine the presence of other potential hazards to cleanup personnel or future occupants including lead, asbestos and mercury.
5. Examine the ventilation system for signs of contamination (e.g., rust). If contamination is suspected, sample the cold air return.
6. Examine the plumbing system for damage. In addition, the assessor should identify the type of wastewater disposal system present (e.g., sewer connection, septic system).
7. Investigate any adjacent or nearby structures for avenues of potential contamination (e.g., common spaces, hallways, shared ventilation system). Cross contamination can often occur in townhouses, motels/ hotels, apartments or duplexes.
8. Determine if outside disposal occurred and caused soil, surface waters or groundwater contamination. Common signs of outside disposal include burned or dead vegetation and stained soil.

