

METHAMPHETAMINE

Signs of methamphetamine production

You may have heard about the drug methamphetamine (or “meth”) on the news, TV specials or from friends and family.

We want you to know what it is, why it is dangerous, and how to spot the signs of methamphetamine production in your community. Right now, methamphetamine use in Vermont is very low and we hope this info will help keep it that way.

The Background

Methamphetamine can be made using common household chemicals, because the main ingredient in the drug is either ephedrine or pseudoephedrine. Both of these can be found in over-the-counter cold medicines. This is one of the reasons that Vermont and the federal government have passed laws restricting the sale of these products.

A large amount of this drug and its ingredients are now being brought to the U.S. from Mexico. But some of the U.S. supply of methamphetamine is still made inside our country in hidden sites called “meth labs.” These labs can break up fast and move to avoid being caught.

Meth labs can be found in: garages, storage units, basements, rental properties, fields, wooded areas, barns, hotels/motels, cars, trucks, and boats, suitcases, sugar houses and camps.

**LEARN ABOUT IT
TALK ABOUT IT**

A Toxic Mix

Items used to make methamphetamine are very toxic and can cause meth labs to explode. If you think you know where a meth lab is, do not go in. Call the police – who can send in people trained to handle toxic chemicals.

These are signs of a possible meth lab:

- Unusual, strong odors
- Unusual number of chemical containers
- Lots of jars, bottles or jugs
- Windows that are covered or blacked out
- People showing paranoid or odd behavior
- Lots of people or cars moving about, especially at night
- People being especially secretive and protective of an area
- Exhaust fans in windows or walls

If you suspect a methamphetamine lab site, do not go into the area yourself. Contact your local police to report it.

For more information about methamphetamine go to <http://healthvermont.gov> or dial 2-1-1 to reach Vermont 2-1-1, a statewide information and referral system (when calling from some cell phones you may need to dial toll-free 1-866-652-4636).

