

Spot the Meth Labs

What you need to know about identifying Meth Labs

To Start

Meth labs are not good for our neighborhoods. Citizens need to be aware of Meth labs so they can be removed from our neighborhoods. Often citizens are the ones that identify Meth Labs first in addition to the actions of the police to identify and shut down Meth Labs.

Take a look at the following so you will be able to recognize activity in your neighborhood that may be an indication of a Meth Lab.

There are actions that you can take to ensure methamphetamine manufacturing is not occurring in your neighborhood. Drug dealers and methamphetamine manufacturers have common habits which are easily observed.

If you observe any combination of these activities, report your concerns to law enforcement immediately.

Signs of a Meth Lab

Not all meth-labs have indicators such as odors and/or stains. Indeed, most Meth labs encountered by the public will not have any unusual odors or stains. The key to recognizing a Meth lab necessarily must take into account the totality of the circumstances. Probably, no one indicator will conclusively be used to identify the presence of a lab. Rather, it is the presence of a combination of indicators that will lead the Sheriff's Department to declare a property as a active or former Meth lab. Although not in and of themselves conclusive evidence, the following could signal the presence of a Meth Lab.

- Frequent visitors at all times of the day or especially late at night
- Activity at the house is usually at odd hours or late at night.
- Occupants appear unemployed, yet seem to have plenty of money and pay bills with cash. Renters who pay their landlords in cash.
- Occupants are unfriendly, appear secretive about activities.
- Occupants watch cars suspiciously when they pass by.
- Occupants display a paranoid or odd behavior.
- Extensive security at the home or signs that indicate "Private Property" or "Beware of Dog", fences, large shrubs, bushes and trees.
- Windows blackened or curtains always drawn.
- Residences with operating fans in windows in colder weather,
- Occupants go outside the house to smoke cigarettes.
- Chemical odors coming from the house, garbage or detached buildings.
- Excessive Trash: Garbage contains numerous bottles, containers, and materials, such as large amounts of over-the-counter allergy/cold/diet medications (containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine), or large quantities of solvents such as Acetone, Coleman Fuel, Toluene, etc. Large numbers of full garbage bags or Coffee filters, bed sheets or other material stained from

Meth Labs

Be aware of behaviors that could indicate a Methlab.

If you see suspicious activity or generally suspect a Methlab, call 911 and the Pima County Sheriff's Department immediately and indicate to them you suspect the existence of a Methlab.

*Be Aware,
Act, Be
Safe*



filtering red phosphorus or other chemicals.

- Occupants sets his garbage for pick up in another neighbor's collection area.
- Evidence of chemical or waste dumping (i.e. burn pits, or "dead spots" in the yard.)
- Unusual, strong odors (like cat urine, ether, ammonia, acetone, or other chemicals) coming from sheds, outbuildings, other structures, fields, orchards, campsites, or especially vehicles (older model cars, vans) etc.

What to do if you suspect a Meth Lab in Three Points

Seventy-five percent of meth labs found have been "stumbled upon". If you suspect a meth lab take these steps:

- Remain calm. Give yourself time to think.
- Do NOT approach suspects. They are often armed and may be dangerous.
- Do NOT enter the lab area. Discarded containers, waste, and other materials remaining from a meth lab can be highly toxic and dangerous. Do not try to clean up the area. Evidence should remain undisturbed for investigation by law enforcement.
- If you are in the lab already, find an excuse to leave immediately. Never use touch or smell to try to identify unknown substances. Keep a safe distance. Hazardous materials may ignite or the fumes may overcome you.
- Promptly call 911 or Pima County Sheriff's department and report what you have seen or experienced.

If you are a Landlord

The means necessary to prevent a tenant from starting a methamphetamine lab can be simple and non-intrusive. A landlord can eliminate the likelihood of a meth lab on their property by simply screening prospective tenants and conducting regular inspections.

Meth labs require equipment and supplies that could make a "quick clean-up" unlikely. Landlords should

make "surprise" or unannounced inspection of their property within the provisions of the law. If a landlord suspects or discovers a meth lab, he/she should not confront the tenant or enter the lab, but contact their local law enforcement agency immediately as they are equipped to conduct an investigation and collect evidence in a safe and lawful manner.

Always screen prospective tenants and be sure to check their credit history and references. Have each prospective provide you with a written authorization to check with the local police for prior criminal record.

Advise that you check your property regularly and have your tenant sign an agreement to allow for unannounced inspections. Let your tenant know you have regular contact with the neighbors. Confirm the number and names of the tenants who will be residing at your property and find out who will be paying the bills. Keep a record of your tenant's vehicles and license plate numbers.

For Everyone

Get to know your neighbors by introducing yourself to the neighbors and let them know if your property is a rental. Ask neighbors to keep watch on your property and provide them with your telephone number so they can contact you if they have any concerns.