



Kalamazoo County

Health & Community Services

Environmental Health

Guidelines for Decontamination of Methamphetamine Contaminated Dwellings

Before a dwelling that is condemned due to methamphetamine use or production can be lifted, sampling must be performed to show that residual contamination on the inside surfaces of the dwelling is not present. Decontamination is a tedious and complicated process. This office strongly encourages the use of private contractors to perform decontamination of dwellings. This assures that cleanup is quick and thorough. If a property owner chooses to perform cleanup without the use of a contractor, there is less assurance that post-decontamination testing results will be favorable, and additional cleanup and testing involving additional costs may be necessary. If you decide to attempt to clean the dwelling without a contractor, the following provides some guidance. ***Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services makes no assurances that these steps will result in satisfactory sampling results. These are provided as recommendations only.***

1. It is recommended that you contact the law enforcement agency to obtain a copy of the police report. This will tell you where the concentration of methamphetamine laboratory components was found and where to focus your efforts.
2. Submit a cleanup plan, including the names of those persons that will be present onsite, to the Environmental Health Division. You will then receive a memo stating that you have permission to be onsite on certain dates and times. This memo should be kept with you when you are onsite and shown to local officials and law enforcement when requested.
3. All onsite persons need to wear personal protective equipment (PPE) including but not limited to: full Tyvek suits and/or long sleeve shirts and pants, face mask, and thick tear-proof rubber gloves.
4. All personal property on the premise should be removed and cleaned.
5. Every square inch of every surface (wall, ceilings, and floors) needs to be addressed. These steps should be repeated two or three times depending on the extent and duration of methamphetamine production and use:
 - a. All floors, walls, ceilings, doors, fixtures, and windows need to be cleaned with regular soapy water and/or strong cleaning detergent (or TSP, tri-sodium phosphate). Separate rags/sponges should be used for each wall and each area. Rinsing with clean water is recommended. Please note: bleach and disinfectant-type cleaners may cause the contamination to smear across surfaces.
 - b. All carpets need to be either be removed or thoroughly shampooed.
 - c. All appliances need should be wiped clean and dry inside and out, using regular soapy water and/or cleaning detergent (or TSP). Separate rags/sponges need to be used for each area.
 - d. All cabinets need to be wiped clean and dry inside and out, using regular soapy water and/or cleaning detergent (or TSP). Separate rags/sponges need to be used for each area.
 - e. Painting surfaces with an oil-based encapsulating paint (such as Kilz) will provide additional assurance that the methamphetamine contamination is not an exposure risk.
6. The HVAC (heating and air conditioning) system, air ducts, and all the registers must be decontaminated/cleaned professionally (unless radiant heat is used).

Do not bring children into the contaminated dwelling. If, at anytime, children are found onsite during cleanup activities, Children's Protective Services will be contacted.

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