

**Q: What is a “Meth Bust”?**

A: A “meth bust” is any property, dwelling, structure, or recreational vehicle that has been identified as a suspected illegal methamphetamine (meth) production laboratory, or an area where there is evidence of use, storage and/or production of methamphetamine and/or its components.



**Q: Why is my house condemned? Why do I have to vacate?**

A: The Kalamazoo County Sanitary Code requires any functional dwelling identified as a meth bust to be shown to be safe for habitation. A condemnation placard/an Order to Vacate will be posted on the property until it can be shown that residual meth contamination is not present. Once the sign is posted, it is unlawful for any person to enter the site except by written permission of the Environmental Health Division.

**Q: Can I go back onto my property to get personal belongings?**

A: You must obtain written permission from the Environmental Health Division to be able to enter the property. This does not apply to law enforcement officers, health officials, or their agents, or the consultant and/or contractor who have been hired to assess or decontaminate the property.

**Q: What happens next?**

A: You, as the property owner, have two options: hire a qualified Consultant to test for meth to see if the property is contaminated, or waive the pre-testing and move right into the cleanup of the dwelling by a Contractor or yourself. You must submit a request for waiver and include a cleanup plan to the Environmental Health Division within 30 days.

**Q: What is a Contractor/Consultant?**

A: A **Contractor** (cleaner) is a company that performs decontamination or cleanup of meth labs at a specified price.

A **Consultant** (tester) provides professional advice and performs the testing and develops the preliminary and post-decontamination reports.

**Q: Where do I find a Contractor or a Consultant?**

A: The Environmental Health Division can provide you with a list that is also available at the website:

[www.kalcounty.com/eh/meth.htm](http://www.kalcounty.com/eh/meth.htm)

**Q: What is considered safe? What is the County clean-up threshold?**

A: The final analytical results of samples must be equal to or below 0.5 µg/100cm<sup>2</sup> of meth in order for condemnation to be lifted.

**Q: What are the costs for testing & cleanup?**

A: On average for Kalamazoo County, the price ranges from \$650 to \$1000 for pre- or post-testing and between \$600 and \$5,000 for cleanup, depending on the dwelling type and size. A contractor/ consultant will give you a bid on the cost of an assessment or clean up.

**Q: Will my homeowner’s insurance cover the cost of cleanup?**

A: It depends on your homeowner’s policy. It may be covered if there was a fire involved. Call your insurance agent for more information.

**Q: Can I clean the property myself?**

A: It is encouraged that you obtain the services of a contractor, but the Environmental Health Division can provide a guide sheet if you would like to attempt to clean up the property yourself.



**Q: What can I do with my furniture and personal belongings?**

A: If it can be washed or cleaned with detergent and water, do so. If contamination is widespread, it would be better to just dispose of items. Be aware that contaminated belongings remaining inside the dwelling can cross-contaminate making it difficult to get clean sample results and prolong the condemnation.

**Q: How long is the clean up process?**

A: It takes an average of 4 to 6 weeks for clean up & testing, depending on the procedures that need to be done to the property. Refer to the checklist on the back of this brochure to assure that the necessary steps are followed.

**Q: How long does it take to get condemnation lifted?**

A: Once a final report is received and reviewed by the Health & Community Services Department, an order to lift condemnation will occur within 7 days and the property can be “re-occupied.”

**Q: Who is the Health & Community Services Department contact?**

A: *Methamphetamine Response Team*  
Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department,  
Environmental Health Division  
(269) 373-5352 (269) 373-5333 Fax

## Checklist

- ✓ Vacate the property. Obtain written permission from the Environmental Health Division to enter the property to get belongings, if necessary.
- ✓ Hire a consultant to perform preliminary testing to determine if it is contaminated and the best method for cleanup **OR** submit a written request to waive the pre-testing and submit a written cleanup plan.
- ✓ If the preliminary testing and report show that the dwelling is contaminated, hire a contractor to perform cleanup. You may attempt to perform cleanup yourself in accordance with a written cleanup plan and with written permission to be at the property.
- ✓ If the preliminary testing and report show that there is no residual contamination above 0.5 ug/100cm<sup>2</sup>, submit report to the Environmental Health Division requesting lifting of condemnation.
- ✓ Once decontamination and cleanup is performed, hire a Consultant to perform post-decontamination sampling and prepare a final report.
- ✓ Submit final report to the Environmental Health Division requesting lifting of condemnation.

(The Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department programs are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, sex or disability).



**A METH BUST:  
WHAT DO I DO  
Now?  
Q & A  
FOR PROPERTY  
OWNERS**



Environmental Health Division  
Methamphetamine Response  
(269) 373-5352  
<http://www.kalcounty.com/eh/meth.htm>

