

Roadway Cleaners: Beware of Meth Lab Waste

People make or “cook” the drug, methamphetamine (meth), using legal, over-the-counter products such as the ones listed below. **If you find these or similar items, do not touch, smell or examine them.** Meth dumps may contain or be surrounded by potentially hazardous chemicals. If you suspect you have found materials used to make meth or if you see any suspicious persons around an anhydrous ammonia nurse tank contact your local law enforcement agency by dialing 911.

Commonly found meth lab waste may include the following chemicals, equipment or packaging::

- Anhydrous ammonia stored in 20 pound propane tanks, coolers or thermos bottles. The presence of anhydrous in propane tanks is indicated by bluish-green coloring of brass tank valves.
- Common cold pills or diet pills containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine
- Muriatic acid (swimming pool, well, concrete, and stone cleaner/etcher)
- Alcohol or methanol (“Heet” brand gasoline additive or rubbing alcohol)
- Camp stove fuel (“Coleman” fuel) and charcoal starter
- Iodine crystals of liquid
- Sodium hydroxide; sulfuric and hydrochloric acid (“Red Devil” lye and other drain cleaners)
- Red phosphorus (match books or sticks)
- Ether (engine starting fluid)
- Solvents such as Acetone, Benzene, Toluene, Methyl Ethyl Ketone, Xylene
- Disassembled lithium batteries
- Table salt and rock salt
- Baking dishes and glassware such as “Pyrex” and “Visions”
- Stained, used coffee filters
- Rubber or plastic hosing
- Duct tape



Blue valve means danger!



For further information about Meth or meth labs, see the MDH website at www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/meth/ or call Minnesota Department of Health, Division of Environmental Health at (651) 215-0700 or (800) 657-3908.

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