

## If a property is contaminated, who could clean it?

- You should hire a Montana certified methamphetamine cleanup contractor to clean your property. You can find a list of contractors on the DEQ website:  
<http://deq.mt.gov/cleanupandrec/programs/meth>.
- Before cleanup occurs, the contractor may need to submit a written cleanup plan, based on the initial property assessment, to the DEQ's Methamphetamine Cleanup Program.

## How much does decontamination cost?

- A Montana certified methamphetamine cleanup contractor can give you a bid on the cost of cleanup. The size of the structure, and the extent of the contamination will affect the cost. In some cases, it is more cost-effective to dispose of building materials than to have them cleaned. A property owner should get estimates from several Montana certified methamphetamine cleanup contractors.



### About Us

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality Methamphetamine Cleanup Program (MCP) provides information, education, and oversight for the effective cleanup of properties contaminated by methamphetamine by:

- Administering cleanup standards
- Posting the status of certain contaminated properties
- Providing guidance to owners on cleanup standards.

No project is too large, nor too small for the department to provide assistance regarding decontamination

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**COULD YOUR HOME  
OR PLACE OF  
BUSINESS BE  
CONTAMINATED  
FROM CONSUMPTION  
OR MANUFACTURING  
OF  
METHAMPHETAMINE?**

**Methamphetamine Cleanup  
Program**



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## How do you know if your property is a methamphetamine contaminated site?

- When a methamphetamine lab is discovered by law enforcement, under statute, they are required to notify the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Certified meth contractors investigate properties and use laboratory testing to identify contaminated structures. These contractors will provide a report of their investigation to landowners.
- DEQ's Methamphetamine Cleanup Program posts the address of methamphetamine contaminated structures on its website and sends a certified letter to the property owner and the county health officer. The letter explains the process of having the contaminated property removed from the list as well as the owner's obligations to notify occupants of contaminated structures.

## What are the potential health risks of living in a methamphetamine contaminated property?

- Experts recommend that properties contaminated with methamphetamine should be decontaminated prior to occupancy. Exposure to contamination may result in health problems including migraines, respiratory difficulties, and skin irritation. Children are especially susceptible to adverse health effects from meth toxins because their bodies are still developing, and they have a tendency to put things in their mouth.

## If law enforcement collects all equipment and materials used to manufacture or consumption of meth, does the property still need to be decontaminated?



- There are often no visible signs or odors in properties where methamphetamine was processed or consumed. However, both manufacturing and consuming methamphetamine produce chemical residue that remain a potential health threat to inhabitants.
- Contamination can remain on surfaces, and in sinks, drains, ventilation systems, carpets, furniture, drapes, wallboard, ceiling tiles, and other absorbent materials. Soil and groundwater may also become contaminated if chemicals were spilled, dumped on the ground, or disposed of in a septic system. Methamphetamine contamination can persist for many years unless the property is properly remediated.

## Who is responsible for cleaning up the property?

- The owner of the property is ultimately responsible for cleanup. Property owners can be legally responsible if people get sick after they enter the property, and may be required to notify occupants, in writing, of potential contamination.

## How is a property removed if it is on a DEQ Inhabitable Property List?

- You must employ a Montana certified methamphetamine cleanup contractor to assess the property. The contractor must submit their assessment plan to DEQ for approval prior to sampling.
- If the sampling results are below the state's decontamination standard, your property will be removed from the website, and you will be issued a Certificate of Fitness.
- If the sampling results are above the state's standard, a Montana certified methamphetamine lab cleanup contractor must prepare a cleanup plan and receive approval from DEQ.
- Once cleanup has been completed, an approved clearance plan must specify that testing samples meet the state decontamination standard to receive a Certificate of Fitness and for the property to be removed from the inhabitable list.