Assessing and Ordering Meth Lab Cleanup: A Guide for Local Health Departments

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What’s this about?
Providing local public health professionals with guidance on effective cleanup of former meth labs

This toolkit is designed to help local health departments address common meth (methamphetamine) lab concerns and determine any environmental problems. This guidance draws from the Department of Health Services (DHS) and local health’s experiences in working with these labs across the state. Thank you to the local health departments that provided feedback in making this toolkit.

Please contact us if you have any questions.

Meth Labs are Found Across Wisconsin

Meth is an illegal, man-made drug that is a stimulant of the central nervous system. Although meth can have therapeutic uses, it is often made in private, makeshift laboratories for illegal uses. These private locations, known by law enforcement as “clandestine labs,” have been found in many locations, including rural and urban homes, hotels, and vehicles.

The Public Health Role

Law enforcement and hazardous materials (HazMat) teams discover, raid, and dismantle labs, taking care of most of the hazards. The EPA RCRA Hazardous Waste Identification of Methamphetamine Production Process Byproducts treats the chemicals the HazMat teams remove as hazardous waste. Afterwards, local health departments often face the task of evaluating the property to determine any environmental problems before it is declared suitable for re-entry.

Shutting Down a Meth Lab in 3 Steps

1. Law enforcement learns of drug lab activities and:
   - Notifies child protective services if children are involved.
   - Notifies the health department by letter or phone about the raid. Check with your local law enforcement agencies to ensure you are contacted about meth lab seizures.
   - Conducts investigation, raid, arrests, and seizes evidence.

2. HazMat officials remove containers of hazardous materials and should test indoor air quality.
   If needed, the HazMat team may choose to open windows to ventilate the property. In that case, the building should be ventilated for three to five days as a precaution before health officials enter.

3. Local health department evaluates the property for risks from chemicals remaining on items and surfaces.
   Local health departments issue cleanup orders to ensure the property is safe.

A look inside

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Meth:A Quick Primer
The method used to make meth will impact the cleanup guidance

There are two common methods for making meth, the open-stove method and the one-pot method. The one-pot method is becoming increasingly popular, and the main safety issue is explosions.

What’s in meth?
Meth is made from pseudoephedrine, an over-the-counter cold medicine sold under several brands. The process also uses commonly available household chemicals, such as solvents, acids, and ammonia. The chemicals used vary with the recipe used to make meth. These chemicals can be harmful to breathe and may cause fires or explosions when used incorrectly.

The Meth Process Matters
The open-stove meth production method releases more gases and could impact more rooms in and around the cooking area. The National Jewish Hospital documented a study of contamination spread from this method.

The one-pot or “shake and bake” method is dangerous as it creates gases and pressure in a closed container, which could cause explosions or fires. However, after the seizure of the meth lab, there is usually less contamination with this method as the chemicals were enclosed (as long as there was no fire or explosion). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Voluntary Guidelines Appendix A shares unique hazards and variations of these meth production methods.

Supporting Partners
The partner agencies can provide support and information before, during, and after your visit:

Corporation counsel (corp counsel): You should contact your local corp counsel early in the process as they can tell you if there are any local ordinances specific to meth labs and procedures for gathering evidence. They can also share any other local considerations relevant to your environmental assessment or issue special inspection warrants if that is necessary to gain access to the lab.

Town chair: Your town chair will have specific information for local municipalities.

Social services: Reach out to your child protective services or social service agencies to understand the situation and protocols surrounding children in the drug environment.

Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS): DHS has experienced toxicologists and risk assessors on staff to help you in environmental risk assessments. We provide support for meth lab assessments by lending monitoring equipment, answering questions on sampling methods or data analysis, and assisting with a walk-through of the property as needed. Contact us if you have any questions.

During an event, contact the Wisconsin Emergency Management on-call Duty Officer: 1-800-943-0003.
Evaluating the risks

Steps for determining the risks of former meth labs

Gather Information Prior to the Inspection

Contact Law Enforcement
Contact local law enforcement to get a list of chemicals present and items seized by law enforcement (called the “manifest”). The manifest can help determine the type of meth process used (i.e., one-pot or open stove) and associated chemical hazards.

To prepare for your inspection, ask law enforcement about the specific locations of illegal activities and what materials were found in each location. Request police or Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) reports, pictures, and field testing results as this information will give you a clear understanding of the materials used, the amount of hazardous chemicals that were present, and which areas of the home may have the highest levels of contamination. This will be useful when conducting any environmental assessment.

Plan a Visit with Law Enforcement
Visits to places where drugs were made or used should be accompanied by law enforcement in case you experience unexpected encounters with residents or visitors who could cause a safety issue. Law enforcement can also assess for other safety issues and can help evaluate specific areas of the home where materials for meth production were seized as they often were on-site during seizure of the laboratory. Officers may also have some field testing supplies available for any suspected residue (NarcII Test Kit, Ephedrine, etc.) if that may be necessary.

If law enforcement is not able to join, be sure to go to the site with a colleague and alert law enforcement of your plans.

Declaring Hazards
There are several factors that go into declaring a health hazard. Local health officers have the authority to declare hazards under Wis. Stat. ch. 254.

This toolkit focuses on the chemical hazards that may be present in a former meth lab but does not take into account other factors such as children in the drug environment, sanitation issues, or structural problems and electrical hazards. The National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children (NADEC) has recommendations for children found in drug labs.
Prepare and Plan Your Visit

Assess Known Chemicals

Most chemicals present at the site are not harmful to breathe in. However, some recipes create anhydrous ammonia (highly concentrated NH$_3$) and phosphine (PH$_3$) gas that can be a concern if the property is not ventilated properly. Even short-term exposures to concentrated ammonia or phosphine in air from an operating meth lab can severely harm the lungs and potentially cause death.

Sometimes anhydrous ammonia is bled from large tanks to small propane tanks by the meth producer. This can corrode the valves, a serious safety risk, causing a green or blue color on the valve. If found, do not touch it and notify your HazMat team.

Determine Inspection Method

As a local health officer, you determine the scope of your inspection by conducting assessments. Contact us if you have questions on conducting risk assessments.

Sampling for Evidence

Using equipment to measure meth on surfaces and ammonia or volatile chemicals in air can be helpful during your assessment. If you conduct sampling at the site, the U.S. EPA Voluntary Guidelines recommends using 1.5 µg/100cm$^2$ (1.5 microgram of meth residue per 100 square centimeters of surface area) of meth residue as a health-based standard. Some localities use 0.5 µg/100cm$^2$ which is a laboratory detection limit. Contact DHS for a hand-held CDEX device.

Using Observational Evidence

Sampling and detailed assessments are not always necessary as this information may not change your recommendations. For example, if the property is in poor condition, it may be cost-effective to minimize the assessment and order a comprehensive abatement since cleaning costs and repairs would be extensive regardless whether meth residue is present.

For more information, see “When Numbers Don’t Work,” p.9.
Protect Yourself

Use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) when entering the former lab. The general expectation is that law enforcement will remove containers of hazardous materials and ventilate the building. In those cases, disposable gloves and shoe covers are usually sufficient for entering the building. However, sharp objects may still be around, so do not assume the area is clear of hazards. If you are moving items, you may want to wear puncture-resistant gloves to protect from needles and other hazards. Some local health departments wear half-face respirators for the initial inspection as meth may not be the only drug present. However, if there is a strong odor or other environmental concerns, then you may consider using a third-party contractor to assess and clear the building.

Building inspectors, environmental health staff, and those inspecting the property should take a cautious approach. Do not touch containers of unknown chemicals that may have been missed by law enforcement. Instead, leave the area and notify law enforcement that more work may be needed. If there is any question about the safety of residual odors, monitor for volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and ammonia when entering the lab. Contact DHS to borrow one of these devices.

Do not enter the property if monitoring instruments show elevated levels of VOCs or ammonia.

High Production Labs

If you are dealing with a high production meth lab, determined by the Division of Criminal Investigation, call DHS for assistance: 608-266-1120.

Any closed containers that have obvious mixtures, residues, or are swollen with gas pressure should not be touched or opened. If found, immediately leave the room and contact law enforcement.
Evaluate Your Findings

Under Wis. Stat. ch. 254, local health officers have the authority to declare a human health hazard and order abatement. There are three common human health hazards from meth production to assess when evaluating your findings. Look for drug paraphernalia such as needles, remaining chemicals, and other non-drug related hazards such as exposed wires, broken glass, and other safety issues.

Three Pieces of Evidence to Assess in Former Meth Labs

1. Meth Evidence

Look for physical evidence of meth with a monitoring device to determine residual levels or through observations of evidence of drug use. In most cases, residual meth found on surfaces is not concentrated enough to be harmful, but should still be treated with caution. You can test for meth on surfaces as evidence of meth use.

Finding residual meth on surfaces is important information for the clean-up evaluation.

Additionally, there can be evidence of meth production such as old containers that meth was made in or chemicals needed to produce meth.
2. Other Chemicals
There are several classes of chemicals to consider in assessing the property. These include the parent chemical (pseudoephedrine), inorganic reagents (acids, bases, lithium, iodine, or phosphorous ammonium nitrate, depending upon the recipe), organic solvents such as ether, alcohol, or camp-stove fuel. Review Appendix C of the U.S. EPA’s Voluntary Guidelines for information on chemicals used in various recipes.

In most cases, containers of chemical evidence will have been removed from the property leaving white powdery residues from spilled acids or bases, reddish stains from iodine, or empty containers or packaging.

3. Physical Hazards
Be aware of any containers, needles, or paraphernalia not removed by law enforcement. During the walk-through of the former meth lab, identify any containers or materials that may have been forgotten by HazMat professionals. Do not touch unknown containers. Bottles of unlabeled chemicals, particularly bottles of mixtures containing clear or milky brown liquids, dark floating debris, and white solids should only be touched by HazMat professionals.
**Make Cleanup Recommendations and Orders**

Local health professionals make cleanup recommendations based on their findings. In some cases, the only thing needed is a cleaning that includes scrubbing and painting walls and ceilings. In other cases, the contamination is so extensive that the inside of the building needs complete renovation.

**Cleanup Guidelines**

DHS has cleanup guidance on pages 10-11 of this document, and the EPA has [Voluntary Guidelines for Methamphetamine Laboratory Cleanup](#). Local health departments’ requirements in abatement orders could include having private owners hire private cleanup contractors.

Property owners are responsible for the cleanup and costs. Although owners are able to clean with local health officer approval, they should be aware that some materials can absorb chemicals and may still be dangerous.

**Abatement Orders**

Under [Wis. Stat. ch. 254](#), local health officers have the authority to declare a human health hazard and write abatement orders. Be sure to check with your corp counsel to learn if there are any local ordinances specific to meth labs, or any other local considerations on authority or enforcement. Sample abatement order letters from Wisconsin local health departments are included on page 14.

**Hiring Contractors**

Local health department requirements vary in abatement orders, from having private owners hire crime scene or private cleanup contractors to ordering property owners to conduct cleanup themselves.

Wisconsin does not have a certification process for meth lab cleanup contractors. Depending on the extent of cleanup required, local health can order specific cleanup that the owner can follow and complete. In other situations, a contractor may be needed. [EPA’s Voluntary Cleanup Guidance](#) recommends hiring a contractor with hazardous waste expertise. This contractor should have, at a minimum, completed the 40-hour HAZWOPER training (OSHA 29 C.F.R. 1910.120). Another option is finding a certified industrial hygienist (CIH) in cleanup operations to at least consult on the cleanup strategy.

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**When Numbers Don’t Work**

Sometimes sampling doesn’t help your assessment. A qualitative assessment of the property, including your visual observations, experience, and law enforcement reports, can provide all the information you need for your assessment. This includes assessing what activities occurred (for example, one-pot cooking method, open stove cooking, smoking, or use of other chemicals) and where in the building they happened.

[Contact us](#) if you have questions about this process.
Cleanup guidance

Guidelines for cleaning up former meth labs

The public health inspection is a key step in determining what is needed to restore a property. In some cases, extensive cleanup and renovation is needed. In other cases, a thorough, common-sense cleanup followed by a visual assessment and walk-through may be sufficient to return the building to acceptable living conditions. The cleaning procedures outlined in this document should reduce any health hazard risk.

**Hard Surfaces**

Clean all hard surfaces (e.g., walls, counters, floors, ceilings) using household cleaning methods. We recommend removing any material that has obvious contamination, such as staining or smells.

After cleaning, consider priming and painting walls, floors, and ceilings. Painting seals these surfaces after cleaning. Check if lead-based paint and/or asbestos is present in the building. If so, these will need to be removed by a lead certified contractor or an asbestos certified contractor.

**Soft Surfaces**

Clean any absorbent materials (e.g., carpeting, drapes, clothing, furniture). You may not see the contamination, but these materials can gather dust or splattered chemicals. Carpets should be wet-cleaned (detergent shampoo and vacuum) at least twice if they are not being thrown out.

Contact your local waste facility for information on how to properly dispose of the materials you are unable to clean. Be sure to dispose of the materials so others will not salvage or re-use them.

**Household Items**

Household items may have become contaminated during the meth cooking process. Remove, double-bag, and properly dispose of any items that are visibly contaminated, especially those with red, brown, or yellow stains.

Large appliances such as refrigerators, kitchen ranges, or ovens may have evidence of being used to store or prepare meth. With thorough cleaning, meth and chemical residues can be removed from the hard surfaces of appliances. If the appliance cannot be cleaned, dispose of it as solid waste so other people will not salvage or re-use the material.
**Plumbing**

Contact a plumber if a chemical odor is coming from household plumbing, or if drains are clogged. Tell the plumber the property is a former meth lab and share the types and quantities of chemicals that may have been flushed down the drains.

**Septic Systems**

Although the levels are usually not large enough to cause public health concerns or interfere with the treatment system, individual property septic systems can be affected from improper waste disposal of meth chemicals, including volatile organic compounds (VOCs) such as acetone, toluene, and ether.

The amount of chemicals dumped in soil or septic systems are usually not enough to cause environmental damage. If you suspect the septic tank or yard may be contaminated, contact the Department of Safety and Professional Services Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (POWTS) district specialists for assistance.

**Sump Pits**

If you suspect case chemicals were dumped into the sump pit (for example, you have observed odors, sheens, or changes in pH) you can contact the Department of Safety and Professional Services Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (POWTS) district specialists for assistance.

**Soil**

A burn pit or an area of distressed vegetation can indicate dumping areas where there may be a need for a small-scale soil cleanup.

**HVAC**

The HVAC (Heating Ventilation Air Conditioning) system should be inspected for breaks and blockages. You should assess all areas and rooms serviced by the HVAC system to determine if the contamination has spread to other areas.

It is less likely for a one-pot method (also known as bottle-lab or “shake and bake”) to produce contamination in the HVAC system since it is an enclosed production method (unless there is a fire or explosion). This has not been well studied and more research is needed to understand this method.

An open-stove method produces more steam and gases and the meth residue may impact the HVAC system. EPA’s Voluntary Guidance recommends closing and cleaning the whole HVAC system. The National Jewish Hospital document a study of contamination spread, where smoking meth occurred; however, meth residue is higher where it is cooked and smoked than just smoked.
Resources

Local Health Department Frequently Asked Questions

Should we order environmental testing for meth residue as part of an abatement order?
The Department of Health Services (DHS) does not typically recommend testing, but it is promoted by cleanup contractors. We promote assessing the cost of a thorough abatement over the cost of environmental testing. Some considerations for property owners, health departments, and contractors include liability concerns, compliance issues, and target cleanliness.

What is the cleanup goal after environmental testing?
We recommend 1.5µg/100cm² of meth residue, following the health-based standard promoted by the EPA and adopted by California, Minnesota, Kansas, and Wyoming.

What are the options for testing materials?
Cleanup contractors will likely have access to a third-party lab. Hand held devices (e.g. CDEX) are commercially available for purchase. We have a hand-held CDEX device available to lend to local health departments through our equipment loan program. E-mail us for more information.

What about first responders?
Although various chemicals are used in making meth, the actual hazards depend on the method used. Some recipes use anhydrous ammonia (highly concentrated NH₃) and iodine, other recipes produce phosphine (PH₃) gas. Even short-term exposures to concentrated ammonia or phosphine in air from an operating meth lab can severely harm the lungs and potentially cause death.

First responders should review Appendix C of the EPA’s Voluntary Guidelines for chemical properties associated with meth and use this in choosing PPE.

Should a former meth lab be vacated immediately?
Yes, and most often the place is already vacant because the occupants are in jail or are staying elsewhere. In those cases the notice could go into effect immediately. Time to vacate could vary depending upon the degree of the hazard and if children or other sensitive occupants live there. The contamination is unlikely to spread if the hazardous containers have been moved, the building has been aired out, and no one is entering or leaving the building. However, you should assess the hazards quickly if there are multiple units or people involved (as in a hotel or apartment building).

In general, if there is a hazard that warrants placing a placard then the occupants should be ordered to vacate and abate as soon as possible. Consult your corp counsel regarding questions about the health officer’s placard power.
What happens if a lab is found in a hotel or an apartment building?
The main question and concern when dealing with multi-unit dwellings is the HVAC system and contaminated air or VOCs moving to other units. If there is no connection with the HVAC system to other areas then it is unlikely to be a health concern for neighbors. If there is a common HVAC system it should be inspected for breaks and blockages. You should assess all areas and rooms serviced by the HVAC system to determine if the contamination has spread to other areas.

It is less likely for a one-pot method (also known as bottle-lab or “shake and bake”) to produce contamination in the HVAC system since it is an enclosed production method (unless there is a fire or explosion). This has not been well studied and more research is needed to understand this method.

An open-stove method produces more steam and gases and the meth residue may impact the HVAC system. EPA’s Voluntary Guidance recommends closing and cleaning the whole HVAC system. The National Jewish Hospital documented a study of contamination spread where smoking meth occurred; however, meth residue is higher where it is cooked and smoked than just smoked.

What if I need help?
DHS has experienced toxicologists and risk assessors on staff to help you in environmental risk assessments. We provide support for meth lab assessments by lending monitoring equipment, answering questions on sampling methods or data analysis, and assisting with a walk-through of the property as needed. Contact us if you have any questions.
**Sample Message Map For Local Health Departments**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Message</th>
<th>Supporting Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On [Insert Date], law enforcement seized a meth lab located at [Insert Location].</td>
<td>Only essential personnel are allowed on the property.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>We will conduct an investigation to determine whether any human health hazards are present [add with support from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services if applicable].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>We will issue abatement orders to ensure the property is properly cleaned.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hazards from making meth could still be on the property and pose a health risk.</td>
<td>The biggest concern is during production and the risk of fire or explosion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The public should keep off the property and follow posted signs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact the [Local Health Department] if you have questions about safety.</td>
<td>For more information on the assessment, cleanup, and property release, contact [Local Health Department].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>If you or someone you know is struggling with addiction, seek help and support from [Local Support Service] or [Find local Alliance for Wisconsin Youth coalition that raises awareness on meth use].</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The following sample abatement and property release orders on pages 14 to 18 are only examples. You can use and edit these orders to fit your local context; however, they are not mandated by DHS to use. Finalize these orders with your local legal counsel (corp counsel).

**Sample Abatement Orders**

You can use this abatement order to send to the property owner if you have specific cleanup requirements you are enclosing or if you are mandating the property owner hires a contractor. This also mentions proper protection during cleanup that some local health departments have used.

Dear [Property Owner],

An inspection of [Insert location] on [Insert date] revealed the property is in violation of [Insert local ordinance if applicable] and Wis. Stat. ch. 254. The property is considered a human health hazard and needs to be cleaned.

Pursuant to the authority of [Insert local ordinance if applicable] and Wis. Stat. ch. 254, you are hereby ordered to clean the human health hazard [Insert details of hazard if applicable] which render your property a human health hazard by [Date]. You must [Insert either “follow the enclosed cleanup requirements” or “hire a reputable cleaning company specializing in methamphetamine cleanup”]. All units of the dwelling must be cleaned. [Insert information to be provided to local health department upon completion of cleanup]. Ensure those entering the location are wearing appropriate personal protective equipment (often called PPE), which may include protective eye glasses, disposable gloves, foot coverings, steel toe boots, or a disposable protective suit.

Should you fail to meet these requirements or refuse to do so, we will take necessary steps to remove the nuisance. Please be aware that pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 254.59(2), and [Insert local ordinance if applicable], the cost incurred by the city to abate the nuisance may be collected as a debt from the owner, occupant or person causing, permitting or maintaining the nuisance; and such costs may be assessed against the real estate as a special charge.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, you may reach me at [Insert contact information].

Sincerely,

[Insert Local Health Officer Name, Title, and Contact Information]
Sample Abatement Orders

You can use this abatement order to send to the property owner if you have specific cleanup requirements you are detailing.

Dear [Insert Name],

This letter serves as an Order of Abatement for the property located at [Insert address]. On [Insert date], the [Insert agencies involved with inspection] performed an inspection of the above address. An inspection warrant was obtained to ensure access to the property.

The reason for the inspection was to determine the actions necessary to address known human health hazards after a methamphetamine (meth) laboratory was found at the above location. By using an ID2 Meth Scanner by CDEX, Inc., Tucson, AZ, we checked for identifiable meth residue. The scanner indicated that there were items in every room of the home that tested positive using the meth detection device.

Due to the hazardous materials and byproducts associated with the process of manufacturing and the use of meth, the property is declared a human health hazard under the Wis. Stat. ch. 254 and [Insert local ordinance if applicable]. There are numerous personal items and building components that need to be removed, disposed of and/or cleaned before the buildings can be reoccupied. Those rooms and items are as follows:

[List all cleaning to be done. Example:

BASEMENT

ALL hard surfaces, personal items, and clothing that can be properly washed need to be washed with trisodium phosphate (TSP) and rinsed or properly disposed of by putting them in a dumpster or placed on the curb for regular garbage pickup by the village.

All painted walls and ceilings need to be washed with trisodium phosphate rinsed, primed, and repainted.]

Please notify me when the above items have been addressed and we can perform a final inspection of the property to ensure all of the areas have been addressed and corrected. The property cannot be reoccupied until the work in all areas is completed and the Health Department has made a final inspection. You have 30 days from the receipt of this letter to complete the above items.

Since the property is declared a human health hazard under the Wis. Stat. ch. 254 and [Insert local ordinance if applicable], the failure to comply with the order can subject you to the penalties specified in the Wisconsin State Order of Abatement Statute and the [Insert local ordinance if applicable]. [Insert penalties for state and local ordinances if applicable].

If you have questions or need further clarification of this order, feel free to contact me at [Insert contact information].

Sincerely,

[Insert Local Health Officer Name, Title, and Contact Information]
Sample Property Release Order

You can use this property release order to send to the property owner after the cleanup has occurred. This can serve as reassurance for future occupants who have questions about property safety.

Dear [Insert Name],

On [Insert Date], the [Insert County Health Department], issued an abatement order to address residual contamination from a clandestine, illegal drug laboratory on the property and inside the dwelling at [Insert address]. A copy of this abatement order is enclosed.

As the health officer of [Insert County Health Department], the order was complied with and all work appears to have been completed as there are no obvious hazards. We recommend a Phase I and/or Phase II Environmental investigation if there are further concerns with this property. If you have questions or need further clarification of this order, feel free to contact me at [Insert contact information].

Sincerely,

[Insert Local Health Officer Name, Title, and Contact Information]
Sample Property Release Order

You can use this property release order to send to the property owner after the cleanup has occurred and you have confirmed that the orders have been fully complied with. This can serve as reassurance for future occupants who have questions about property safety.

Dear [Insert Name],

On [Insert Date], the [Insert County Health Department], issued an abatement order to address residual contamination from a clandestine, illegal drug laboratory on the property and inside the dwelling at [Insert address]. A copy of this abatement order is enclosed.

As the Health Officer of [Insert County Health Department], I hereby confirm that the requirements of this abatement order have been fully complied with and this property and dwelling now provide a safe living environment for current and future residents. If you have questions or need further clarification of this order, feel free to contact me at [Insert contact information].

Sincerely,

[Insert Local Health Officer Name, Title, and Contact Information]
**Additional Resources**

**General Guidance**

EPA’s Voluntary Guidelines for Methamphetamine Laboratory Cleanup includes more detailed information than is provided in this toolkit. It also includes additional studies and specific cleaning methods for household items like wood, windows, dishes, carpet.

EPA’s Risk Assessment webpages have information on conducting human health risk assessments. Contact us if you have questions or want support on this process.

**Chemicals in Meth**

Appendix A of EPA’s guidelines include common hazards and variations of the chemicals in meth. This is helpful to review prior to conducting an assessment.

Minnesota Department of Health’s Appendix A of their Clandestine Lab Guidance also includes common manufacturing chemicals.

**Standards**

In the past, clean-up targets were based on the ability of laboratories to detect meth. The clean-up guideline currently recommend by the EPA is a health-based target reflective of concentrations that may cause harm.

There are no federal standards for how properties with a meth lab should be cleaned and the response to cleaning varies by location. However, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) has regulations that impact hazardous materials. The EPA RCRA Hazardous Waste Identification of Methamphetamine Production Process By-products treats the chemicals the HazMat teams remove as hazardous waste. For more information on RCRA and their regulations for making a hazardous waste determination, see 40 C.F.R. 261.