

Methamphetamine Lab Indicators



HCL Generator:

Clearly the most dangerous item found at a lab dump site is the Hydrogen Chloride (HCL) gas generator. This is an acid-gas conversion device containing Sulfuric or Muriatic Acid which will burn the skin severely if touched. Any plastic or metal containers with tubing attached should be avoided at all costs.



Household Chemicals:

Flammable and poisonous chemicals like Acetone, brake cleaner, camping fuel, ether, gasoline additives, iodine, mineral spirits, paint thinner, propane, red phosphorous and various acids are commonly found.



Remains of a Methamphetamine Lab



Containers:

Unmarked jars or containers filled with dangerous toxic lab waste are always present at a dumpsite requiring professional Haz Mat removal. Never open or smell an unknown chemical.



Cold Medicines:

Pseudoephedrine is the required ingredient needed to make meth, commonly found in over-the counter cold medicines. Multiple packages or bottles are commonly found at a lab dump site.



Drain Cleaners:

Lye or sodium hydroxide found in drain cleaner is extremely caustic and can cause skin ulcers.



Coffee Filters:

Reddish-brown stained coffee filters are good indicators of a clandestine meth lab. DO NOT TOUCH these filters. They are contaminated and may cause skin or respiratory damage.



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A Drug Demand Reduction Initiative for the U.S. Attorney's Office, Northern District of Indiana