

METH AND YOUR PROPERTY

RENTERS

HOW TO RENT A SAFE HOME

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Certified Decontamination Specialist

www.superfund.utah.gov/docs/ContractorList.pdf

Utah State Rule on Decontamination

www.rules.utah.gov/publicat/code/r392/r392-600.htm#5

Link to Local Health Departments

www.health.state.ut.us/lhd/index.html

DEQ Website

www.environmentalresponse.utah.gov

Collaborative Site on Meth

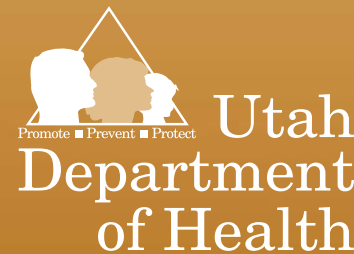
www.methresources.gov

Utah's Meth Task Force website

www.Endmethnow.org

Tenant Rights, Laws, and Protections

www.hud.gov/local/ut/renting/tenantrights.cfm



Environmental Epidemiology Program

Methamphetamine

288 North 1460 West
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

Phone: 801-538-6191

Fax: 801-538-6564

<http://health.utah.gov/meth>

Properties can be contaminated from both the chemicals used in meth production and/or residue left by using meth.

Proper decontamination is suggested to remediate properties that have been contaminated.



What is meth?

A potent stimulant that is highly addictive, meth may be sold as a powder or rock-like substance. The most common names for meth are:

Crystal, Crank, Ice, Glass

Because meth is relatively inexpensive and easy to produce, residential meth labs are a serious problem. Once a property has been contaminated by meth production or usage, it remains that way until properly decontaminated.



*Don't risk it...
check before you sign*

A snapshot guide to inform renters and residents of the resources available to them.

QUESTIONS TO ASK

BEFORE RENTING

Landlord

- How long have the previous occupants lived here?
- Are you aware of anyone who lived here ever being convicted of using or producing meth?
- Is this property on the local health department's contamination list?
- Have you noticed any lingering chemical odors?
- Are there spots in the yard where vegetation will not grow?

Neighbors

- Were there frequent visitors at the home? Did they come and go at unusual times? Did the frequent visitors stay for only 5-10 minutes at a time?
- Did you ever notice any strong chemical odors coming from the house?
- Were the windows ever blacked out or curtains always drawn?
- Did you ever notice security cameras on the property?



VISUAL INSPECTION

CHECKLIST FOR METH PRODUCTION

Inside the property

- ☐ Yellow discoloration on ceilings, walls, floors, drains, sinks and showers
- ☐ Blue discoloration on valves or propane tanks and fire extinguishers
- ☐ Staining or etching marks on sinks, toilets, bathtubs or stove
- ☐ Added ventilation systems located over work benches, in attics or basements
- ☐ Smoke detectors that are removed or taped off
- ☐ Unusual burn marks
- ☐ Unusual chemical odors such as paint thinner or chlorine
- ☐ Trapdoors or hidden rooms

Outside the property

- ☐ Extensive security measures or attempts to ensure privacy such as "No Trespassing" or "Beware of Dog" signs, excessive fencing, large trees or shrubs
- ☐ Burn piles
- ☐ Buried trash with signs of meth ingredients
- ☐ Areas in the yard that indicate chemicals may have been dumped, such as dead spots or burns

HOW TO TEST

FOR METHAMPHETAMINES

Testing

Professional testing is available through state Certified Decontamination Specialists. A complete list is available at:

www.superfund.utah.gov/docs/contractorlist.pdf

The Utah Department of Health recommends contacting several Certified Decontamination Specialists for quotes as prices may vary.

Contamination levels

Contamination levels depend on the activity on the property, whether it is through production and/or use.

Production

Many flammable and toxic gases, as well as significant amounts of meth residue, can result from the production of meth.

Use

Meth can leave detectable residue levels on all surfaces.

RENTERS' RIGHTS

UTAH

You have the right to a safe and sanitary home. State law requires landlords to maintain rental units in compliance with local ordinances.

If you suspect your property is contaminated, speak with your landlord. If a Certified Decontamination Specialist confirms the residence is contaminated, decontamination is the property owner's responsibility.

Responsibility of Landlords

Landlords must comply with the law and the health, building and safety codes of the city or county in which the property is located.

Landlords must maintain the unit in safe and healthy condition and not allow illegal drugs to be made, sold or stored there. If meth contamination is confirmed by a Certified Decontamination Specialist the property owner must assume decontamination cost and responsibility.

The state decontamination standard can be found at <http://health.utah.gov/meth>.

