

## What Does a Meth User Look Like?

Meth users come from all walks of life and some disguise their habit very well. Below are some signs of someone using meth. Has someone you know suddenly become a different person? Meth might be the cause for their change. Watch for:

- Long periods without sleeping or eating
- Hyperactivity—cannot sit still
- Picks at skin constantly
- Easily agitated & aggressive
- Grayish, leather like skin
- Cotton mouth
- Kidney failure
- Sores on the skin
- Rapid weight loss
- Paranoid behavior
- Injection sites/bruising
- Red & dry nose
- Tooth loss or tooth grinding
- Strange body odor

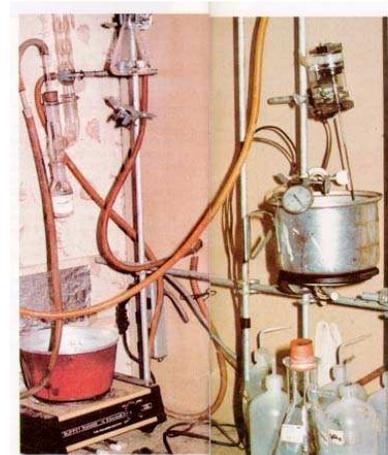


## Why Should I Help and How Can I?

Meth users contribute to a large percentage of crime in our county. Many burglaries and thefts can be attributed to the support of drug dealers and their habits. Law enforcement cannot fight this battle alone. You can be the extra eyes and ears for the Latah County Sheriff's Office. Notify our office of any and all suspicious activity. Educate your children to do the same. Become involved in community clean-up projects. Drug dealers don't blend into clean communities. Help a child who is at risk of becoming involved in drugs and/or alcohol.

**Together we can make a difference!** The Latah County Sheriff's Office is open 24 hours a day and can be reached at (208) 882-2216. Emergency 9-1-1.

## Latah County Sheriff's Office Narcotics and Drug Activity Information



## Meth Labs:

### What you need to know

Is there a methamphetamine lab in your neighborhood? Would you know if you saw it? What dangers do you and your family face? What can you do to stop it . . .

## What is Methamphetamine?

Methamphetamine is a powerful stimulant. The street form is most often manufactured in illegal and dangerous drug labs known as *clandestine* labs. Some are mobile labs, and others are stationary. Meth is commonly referred to as *speed*, *crystal*, *ice*, and *crank* (however, there are many other slang terms for it). Although meth is most commonly smoked or injected, people can take meth orally or snorted. No matter how it is ingested, it is a dangerous drug that has long-lasting and debilitating consequences.

Many side-effects are associated with methamphetamine: restlessness, body tremors, excitability, euphoria, exaggerated reflexes, anxiety, teeth grinding, loss of appetite, dry mouth, and irritability as well as paranoia and mental confusion. Over time, a user might experience depression, brain damage, hypertension, and other long-term medical complications. Used in excess, it can cause hallucinations, convulsions, drastic increase in body temperature and heart palpitations, and potentially death.

## What are the Dangers of Methamphetamine?

### Crime

Meth users and cooks need money and supplies to support their habits and/or trade. Often they will resort to stealing to get what they need. Non-drug production related stolen property might be pawned or traded in exchange for drugs.

### Domestic Abuse

Since agitation is a side effect of use, many meth users are physical abusers. Children in homes of cooks and users are often subject to various forms of abuse including exposure to chemicals and dirty needles. Also, because of the paranoia that users experience, many keep unsecured weapons in their homes—also posing a risk to young children.

### Highly Addictive

Meth users become both physically and psychologically dependent upon the drug in a very short period of time.

### Toxic Waste

Meth manufacturing leaves behind hazardous waste. One pound of the finished product leaves about six pounds of haz-



ardous waste behind. Containers release toxic fumes from acids and solvents both during the cooking process and afterwards. During the cooking process, these chemicals and fumes can cause disfigurement and even death when inhaled or when contact is made with the skin or eyes or breathed into the lungs.

## What Should I Look For?

Usually when we think of a lab, we picture large sanitary rooms like you would see in a hospital or a university. But meth labs can be very small and can be anywhere. They are found at every social and economic level and among most all age groups. Think your neighborhood is exempt? Think again! Watch for some of these signs of a clandestine laboratory:

- Noxious odors
- Excessive traffic
- Chemical containers
- Exhaust fans constantly running
- High electric or water bills
- Large quantities of acetone, Drano, Matches, etc.
- Many packs of cold medications
- Odd hours
- Filthy living conditions
- No visible means of support
- Darkened windows
- Frequent deliveries
- Coffee filters with white residue
- Many packs of lithium batteries
- Glassware or chemical beakers



### Note:

*Never enter a house or building you suspect to confirm your suspicions! These labs are highly flammable and can explode without warning. Users and cooks often booby trap their labs or property to keep out nosy neighbors and police. Notify law enforcement immediately if you suspect an area is a clandestine lab or if you suspect drug activity at a home or building near you. Stay away from the area!*