

# METH AND YOUR PROPERTY

## BUYERS

HOW TO PURCHASE A SAFE HOME

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.



### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

**Certified Decontamination Specialist**

[www.superfund.utah.gov/docs/ContractorList.pdf](http://www.superfund.utah.gov/docs/ContractorList.pdf)

**Utah State Rule on Decontamination**

[www.rules.utah.gov/publicat/code/r392/r392-600.htm#5](http://www.rules.utah.gov/publicat/code/r392/r392-600.htm#5)

**Link to Local Health Departments**

[www.health.state.ut.us/lhd/index.html](http://www.health.state.ut.us/lhd/index.html)

**DEQ Website**

[www.environmentalresponse.utah.gov](http://www.environmentalresponse.utah.gov)

**Collaborative Site on Meth**

[www.methresources.gov](http://www.methresources.gov)

**Utah's Meth Task Force website**

[www.Endmethnow.org](http://www.Endmethnow.org)



**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>



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

A snapshot guide to inform potential home buyers of the resources available to them.

# QUESTIONS TO ASK

BEFORE PURCHASING A HOME

# VISUAL INSPECTION

CHECKLIST

# HOW TO TEST

FOR METHAMPHETAMINES

# DECONTAMINATION

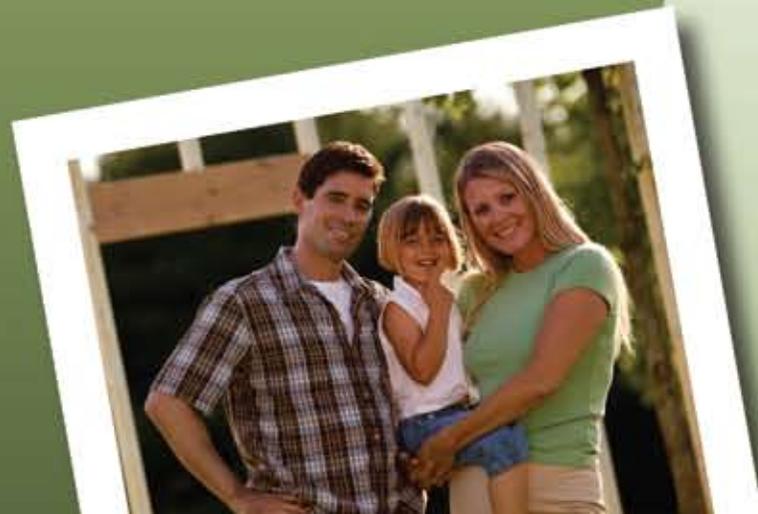
PROCESS

## Realtor

- How long have the owners lived in the home?
- 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?



## Inside the home

- 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 home

- 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

## Testing

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

[www.superfund.utah.gov/docs/contractorlist.pdf](http://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.

State standards for the decontamination process (R392-600) have been established in an effort to protect public health.

Contact your local health department for county specific decontamination procedures if your property tests positive for meth. While decontamination standards are the same statewide, county procedures may differ.

## Summary of State Rule 392-600

State Rule 392-600 specifies pre-assessment, sampling, work plan, decontamination standards and final reporting standards. For more information, please refer to the complete rule at:

[www.rules.utah.gov/publicat/code/r392/r392-600.htm#T5](http://www.rules.utah.gov/publicat/code/r392/r392-600.htm#T5)

The state decontamination standard can be found at [www.health.utah.gov/meth](http://www.health.utah.gov/meth).

