



Common Methods for Methamphetamine Removal

Advantages and Disadvantages

Method A

Wash and scrub with household cleaners

Although inexpensive as far as chemical costs are concerned this method is both time and labour intensive and only removes the surface contamination of meth contamination. Meth residues are not destroyed and remain unchanged in the wash solutions. It is also impossible to reach the residue accumulated in cracks and crevices, which means those contaminants remain.

Method B

Removal of all contaminated surfaces - demolition

The physical removal of all contaminated surfaces is very expensive (5 to 10 times the cost), time consuming and does not guarantee fresh surfaces which are contaminant free. The major disadvantage is that the meth is not destroyed; it is simply relocated. Contaminated dust particles are released during demolition and may penetrate construction voids, cracks, and crevices necessitating careful and meticulous vacuuming and dust removal during the demolition to avoid cross contamination. As the airborne contaminated particles can also cause health problems to the demolition crew, personal protective clothing and full face respirators are necessary for all crew members.

Method C

Misting or fogging with bleach

Seemingly economical and can be effective in destroying meth and many other chemical bacterial contaminants but full personal protective equipment is essential. This method generates chlorinated by-products which are environmentally undesirable and potentially harmful. The generation of chlorine gas and caustic mist must be cleared from the house before safe occupancy can occur. High concentrations of bleach are corrosive to metal and cause pitting and rust damage to the metal surfaces including air-conditioners, metal duct work, plumbing fixtures, door hardware, electrical fixtures and even wiring. Replacement costs far outweigh the savings on chemicals, while the chlorine gas by-product can create a toxic living environment not desirable to the client.

Method D

Misting or fogging with hydrogen peroxide

Although it appears to be easy and inexpensive, hydrogen peroxide only removes surface contamination. The use of strong solution at 25-50% may also produce a delayed spontaneous ignition hazard. Transportation of such volatile level of hydrogen peroxide is hazardous and requires specialist training and vehicle placards. The attention to personal protective equipment and clothing is mandatory to worker safety as inhalation or exposure to this level of H_2O_2 can burn skin, eyes and lungs in seconds. It can also pit (rust) out all metal products in the property similar to using bleach as described in Method C.

Method E

Spraying and Scrubbing with formulated chemical products

There are formulated products available that are highly effective in removing and destroying meth and related contaminants. Not all products are equally effective and some are totally ineffective. The effective products tend to be more costly and are most effective when applied with scrubbing and rinsing. The structure for the most part remains intact (except porous materials which require removal) and there are in general no toxic by-products or residues.



For further information call **1300 988 496**

