



## MID-MICHIGAN DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Your public health team, connecting with our communities to achieve healthier outcomes

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### **Meth waste found in unlikely places**

Stanton, MI- Michiganders are outside a lot this time of year. We take long strolls through the woods, enjoy miles of hiking and biking trails and play with our kids at the park. Some of us even help our communities stay clean by picking up trash alongside the road.

As we enjoy these activities in the great outdoors, we need to be mindful of our surroundings and know that something dangerous could be right under our feet.

Sadly, the something dangerous we're referring to is waste from the production of methamphetamines, or meth. Many may think that drugs are only found in larger cities, but the fact is that they are found right here in our own communities, with meth being one of the most common.

Meth is a highly addictive stimulant that can be made using common household and industrial chemicals. Meth labs can be located anywhere- in homes, hotels, sheds, cars, or vacant land. When meth is produced, it creates highly toxic and flammable waste, which often gets dumped on the side of the road, in ditches, or even in parks. And it happens more often than you think.

For your own safety, and your family's safety, it's important to know how to spot a meth lab and its toxic waste. And it's extremely important to instruct your children and teens to stay away from these items if they find them.

Signs of a meth lab, or its waste, include:

- A strong odor that smells like ammonia, cat urine, or acetone
- Plastic pop, juice or water bottles with granular material inside, possibly with tubing coming out the top
- Antifreeze containers
- Chemical-stained coffee filters
- Empty boxes of allergy tablets
- Drain cleaner containers
- Battery casings
- Lantern fuel cans
- Standard grill propane tanks, often with blue coloring around the valve and handles.

If you stumble upon what looks like a meth lab, or its waste, don't touch anything as it could catch fire, explode, or emit hazardous gas. Instead, note the location, and leave the area immediately. Then, call 9-1-1 or Michigan State Police at 1-866-METH-TIP (1-866-638-4847).

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## 2- Meth

Remnants of a meth lab.



*Source: MLive*



*Source: Detroit Free Press*

*Mid-Michigan District Health Department serves the residents of Clinton, Gratiot and Montcalm Counties.*

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