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Protecting People & Profits  
Through Education

## Meth Clan Lab Contamination

Police in New Zealand have uncovered well over 1000 Methamphetamine Clan Labs across New Zealand within the past 10 years.

Many of these have caused extensive damage to the properties and leave behind such dangerously high levels of neurotoxic chemicals that the homes are uninhabitable and in some cases are condemned and dismantled.

Meth Labs are a threat to many across the country, however most will be unaware the danger even exists. This danger stems from the countless number of Meth labs which are, or have been operating, that have never come to the attention of Police, and therefore their resulting contamination lies in wait for unsuspecting occupants, new home owners, motel or hotel guests, vehicle owners and the like.

These potential dangers were highlighted in a comprehensive research study carried out by the National Jewish Medical Research Centre, Colorado USA (A 24-Hour Study to Investigate Chemical Exposures Associated with Clandestine Methamphetamine Laboratories, August 11, 2005)

During this research study it was discovered that many of the toxic acids, reagents and also airborne methamphetamine remain present in highly toxic levels up to 24 hours after the 'cook' and that activities such as walking, crawling and vacuuming can re-suspend these substances.

Moreover, repeated manufacture is known to cause significant levels of penetration into wall, ceiling and floor coverings, as well as furniture and other absorbent materials.

These contaminants can cause health problems including respiratory (breathing) problems, skin and eye irritation, headaches, nausea and dizziness. Acute (short-term) exposures to high concentrations of some of these chemicals can cause severe health problems including lung damage and burns to different parts of the body.

With Methamphetamine manufacture showing no signs of letting up, new home buyers, and those operating rental accommodation of any sort must be vigilant and be aware of the possibility of manufacture and subsequent contamination. Common signs of methamphetamine manufacture can be found on [www.methcon.co.nz](http://www.methcon.co.nz)

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