

Frequently Asked Questions – For Property Owners of Meth Contaminated Properties

Q. Who is responsible for cleaning up meth contaminated property?

A. The property owner or lien holder is ultimately responsible for cleanup costs. Some insurance policies may cover costs associated with a cleanup but most do not. The owner also may be legally responsible if persons get sick after they re-enter a contaminated building.

Q. If I own a property where a clandestine meth lab was quarantined, can I clean the property myself?

A. No, you must use a certified cleanup contractor clean the property. The Notice will remain posted until it has been assessed and/or decontaminated by a certified contractor in accordance with the law.

Q. What is the cost of cleaning up a clandestine methamphetamine lab?

A. Cleanups of labs are extremely resource-intensive and beyond the financial capabilities of most jurisdictions. The average cost of a cleanup is about \$5,000, but some cost up to \$20,000 or more.

Q. Are there State funds available to clean my property?

A. No State funds are available for the cleanup. The KY Housing Corporation has developed a program for those who may need financial assistance. To see if you qualify for assistance or have questions please contact **KHC's Meth Clean-Up Program Coordinator Laticia (Tisha) Callis**. Her email is lcallis@kyhousing.org and her phone number is (502) 564-7630 ext. 120.

Q. Does homeowners insurance cover any of the cleanup costs?

A. Some homeowners do have insurance that pays for at least part of the costs of property assessment and cleanup. You will need to check your individual policy to determine this.

Q. Who may do the cleanup of the property?

A. Only contractors certified by the Division of Waste Management shall be authorized to conduct the decontamination services for inhabitable properties.

- Q. How can I find a cleanup contractor to have my property cleaned?
- A. The list of certified contractors are located on our web page here: <https://eec.ky.gov/Environmental-Protection/Waste/superfund/methamphetamine-lab-cleanup/Documents/List%20of%20Contractors.pdf>
- Q. My property has been assigned a Tier Number, what does that mean?
- A. [KRS 224.1-410 \(6\)](#) contains the statutory Tier divisions. Criteria can also be found on our web page here: <https://eec.ky.gov/Environmental-Protection/Waste/superfund/methamphetamine-lab-cleanup/Documents/TierResponseCriteria.pdf>
- Q. What are my other options for decontamination?
- A. Demolition of the property is another option. Details for this option are available on our web page here: <https://eec.ky.gov/Environmental-Protection/Waste/superfund/methamphetamine-lab-cleanup/Pages/decontamination.aspx>
- Q. When can I begin to have my property cleaned up?
- A. When the criminal investigation authorities have decided that the crime scene is no longer necessary for evidence collection and you have received your notice of contamination, you may begin the cleanup process by contacting a Certified Contractor.
- Q. How many contractors should I contact for bids?
- A. It is standard practice to get 3 bids from contractors for price comparison. **The prices are set by the contractors so the prices may vary between contractors, therefore price comparison is advisable.**
- Q. What should *I do* if meth activity is suspected at my property, even if it is not currently posted as contaminated?
- A. Immediately contact your local law enforcement and health authorities.