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.

**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.**

**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
- Link to Local Health Departments
  [www.health.state.ut.us/hs/index.html](http://www.health.state.ut.us/hs/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)
- Tenant Rights, Laws, and Protections

**Utah Department of Health**

**Environmental Epidemiology Program**

**Methamphetamine**

288 North 1480 West
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

Phone: 801-538-6191
Fax: 801-538-6584

### Questions To Ask

#### Landlord
- How long have the previous occupants lived here?
- 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?

### Visual Inspection

#### Inside the property
- 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 property
- 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

### How To Test

#### 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.

### Renters’ Rights

You have the right to a safe and sanitary home. State law requires landlords to maintain rental units in compliance with local ordinances.

If you suspect your property is contaminated, speak with your landlord. If a Certified Decontamination Specialist confirms the residence is contaminated, decontamination is the property owner’s responsibility.

#### Responsibility of Landlords
- Landlords must comply with the law and the health, building and safety codes of the city or county in which the property is located.
- Landlords must maintain the unit in safe and healthy condition and not allow illegal drugs to be made, sold or stored there. If meth contamination is confirmed by a Certified Decontamination Specialist the property owner must assume decontamination cost and responsibility.

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