

ADEQ's Mission

To protect, enhance and restore the natural environment for the well-being of all Arkansans

What You Can Do

Avoid exposure to residual waste from clandestine drug labs:

- Order properties suspected of past lab activities tested by a certified contractor.
- Contact law enforcement authorities about current illegal activities.
- Stay away from properties marked as contaminated.
- Check the ADEQ website for a list of contaminated properties.

Contact

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ADEQ: What We Do

The Department of Environmental Quality is an agency of the state of Arkansas. We are headquartered in North Little Rock and have offices and inspectors throughout the state.

Our regulatory programs for air, water, solid waste, hazardous waste, regulated storage tanks and mining help protect Arkansas's environment. We issue permits for businesses and farms and monitor for compliance.

We also manage programs to assist businesses, educators and the public with regulatory, recycling and other issues. ADEQ offers loans and tax credits for environmental improvement projects.



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Clandestine Lab Cleanup



*Protect the environment
through cleanup of
contaminated property.*

ADEQ
A R K A N S A S
Department of Environmental Quality

Drug Labs: The Environmental Concern

Illegal drug activity takes a toll on families and communities. It also creates environmental problems.



Residual chemical waste from drugs like methamphetamine may leave surfaces contaminated for years, posing a health hazard to unwitting owners or renters.

In Arkansas, the Controlled Substance Contaminated Property Cleanup Program ensures that clandestine laboratories are properly decontaminated and that contractors are trained and equipped to conduct cleanup activities.

The program is managed by ADEQ in partnership with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies.

Law and Regulation

Arkansas Act 864, approved April 2007

Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission Regulation No. 32

Who Cleans Up Meth Labs?

Meth labs are considered hazardous. After a drug bust has occurred or if a property owner suspects or finds evidence of a drug lab, the owner is required to hire a certified contractor to investigate and, if needed, clean up the site. All associated costs are the sole responsibility of the property owner.

Clues indicating lab activity:

- Unusual strong odors like ether, ammonia or other chemicals
- Renters who pay in cash
- Residences with windows covered
- Excessive trash, including antifreeze containers, lantern fuel cans, red stained coffee filters, drain cleaner and duct tape
- Chemical staining on walls and floors
- Burn pits, stained soil or dead vegetation indicating dumped chemicals or waste from a meth lab
- Large amounts of household chemicals found in bathrooms, kitchens, laundry rooms, motel rooms, etc.

After Discovery

The following three scenarios describe a property owner's initial responsibilities after the discovery of a confirmed/suspected clandestine drug lab:

1. **Owner discovers an abandoned drug lab.** He notifies local law enforcement for proper removal of contaminated material. Law enforcement contacts ADEQ, and the property is placed on the Department's contaminated properties list. The owner must hire a certified contractor.
2. **Owner suspects the presence of a lab.** He must have the property inspected and tested by a certified contractor. If the property is verified as a drug lab, the contractor notifies ADEQ, and the property is listed.
3. **Law enforcement busts a drug lab.** They notify ADEQ and the property owner. The property is listed, and the owner is required to hire a certified contractor before the property can be reoccupied.

In all cases a Notice of Removal will be posted, and access to the property will be restricted until the property is inspected and cleared or remediated by a certified contractor.

For more information and the property list, go to www.adeg.state.ar.us/poa/cspc