

[your municipality here] CLAN LAB IDENTIFICATION AND AWARENESS

The following has been developed to increase worker awareness related to illegal clan lab materials. The information contained in this document will help staff identify potential clan lab materials and review potential health and safety hazards. **Staff are not to attempt to handle these materials.** Staff should notify their supervisor for further direction related to notification of the Police and removal of materials.

What is a Clan Lab?

Clan Lab is the short term for **clandestine laboratory**, used primarily for illegal drug production. Most Clan Labs are associated with making methamphetamine or ecstasy, but could also be producing LSD, GMB, crack cocaine or hash oil.

What Does A Clan Lab Look Like?

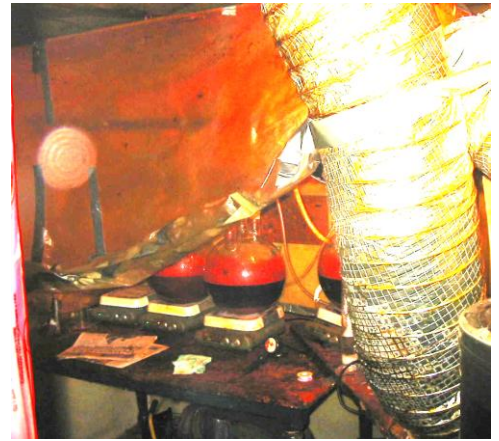
A clan lab can be very elaborate or very simple. The location of the lab could be clean, well organized, or dirty, messy and disorganized. Clan labs have been found in every neighborhood, in industrial areas, hotel rooms, town houses, open fields, abandoned structures, buses and other vehicles.

What should we be aware of that could possibly indicate Clan Lab activity?

- Extraordinary security precautions being taken by the people to protect their privacy, such as security cameras, added locks, bars over windows, etc.
- Chemical containers present, made more suspicious when the labels are obliterated
- Unusual foot traffic
- Containers being moved in or out
- People come outside only to smoke and/or eat and drink
- Unusual odours coming from the building or location, such as the odour of ether or acetone
- Dead foliage in run-off areas
- Discarded matchbooks with only the striker pads missing
- Discarded empty containers or blister packs of over-the-counter cold or allergy medicines (particularly allergy medication with **pseudoephedrine**)
- Solvent containers – plastic or metal:
 - Ether
 - Acetone
 - White gas or camping fuel
 - Chloroform
- Methanol
- Isopropanol or rubbing alcohol
- Toluene, MEK, xylene, naphtha

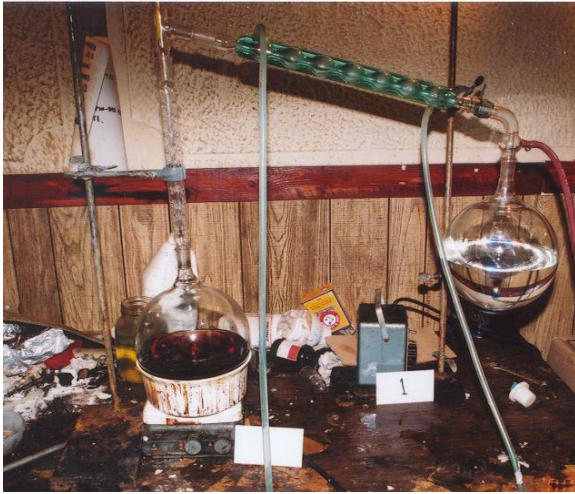


- Stained (red/brown/yellow/orange) containers:
 - Glassware
 - Pots
 - Plastic buckets
- Coolers (may have holes cut in them)
- Compressed gas cylinders of ammonia or propane (often badly corroded from holding ammonia)



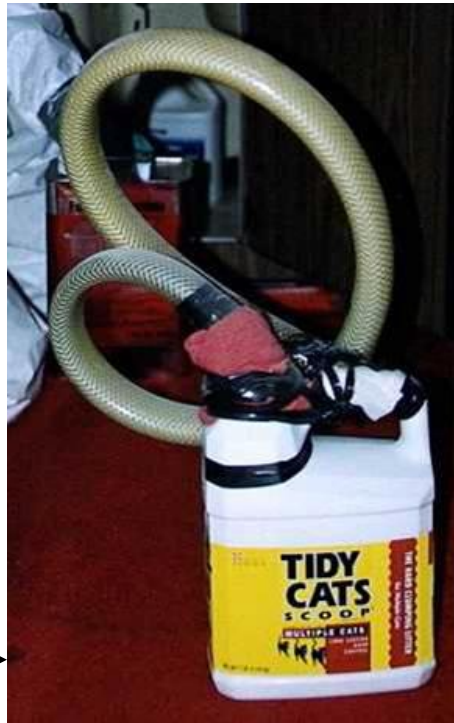
- Numerous household consumer products:
 - Carburetor cleaner or engine starter (flammable solvent)
 - Road flares (red phosphorus = red staining)
 - Drano crystals or Red Devil lye (strong caustic alkaline corrosive)
 - Car batteries, drain opener or root killer (strong acid)
 - Rock salt (mixed with strong acid to produce toxic corrosive gas)
 - Iodine (yellow or brown staining)
 - Tile and grout cleaners (strong acids or strong alkaline corrosives)
 - Gas line antifreeze (flammable solvents)
- Other miscellaneous waste may include:
 - flex ducting
 - tubing (stained)
 - funnels
 - numerous red stained coffee filters and lab glassware
- Clan lab waste may have a general odour of cat urine or licorice





- Round bottomed flasks
- Heating plates
- Condensers (glass tube within a glass tube)
- Tubing
- Hot plates

Note the red-brown staining on other items and surfaces.



Kitty Litter used as a filter →



- Assorted laboratory glassware
- Separatory funnels
- Flasks

- Laboratory glassware
- Heating plate
- Red residue on condenser column



What health hazards are associated with the materials from Clan Labs?

Most Clan Lab chemicals fall into 3 categories:

1. petroleum solvents
2. acids
3. bases (alkali/caustics).

Petroleum solvents are highly volatile and can evaporate quickly therefore they can be inhalation hazards as well as fire hazards. These solvents can cause irritation to the eyes, nose, throat and skin, headaches, nausea and dizziness. The acids and caustics that are used are in a liquid or solid form so there may be risks of chemical burns to the skin. Some of the abandoned or discarded liquids may be mixtures of solvent and corrosive liquids. Caution should be used as mixing different compounds can create toxic gases (e.g. mixing rock salt and sulphuric acid create hydrogen chloride gas). The actual drugs themselves can potentially be present in trace quantities and should not pose a health risk to workers.

What should you do if you discover a Clan Lab?

Leave the vicinity, document the location and what you observed, contact your Supervisor immediately.