

Cleaning Up a Meth Lab Site

How to Hire a Certified Drug Lab Decontamination Contractor

An illegal methamphetamine lab has been found on your property. Your local health department requires you to hire a Department of Health (DOH) certified clandestine drug lab decontamination contractor. How do you know which company is right for you? To assist you in making a decision, the following guidelines are provided:

INFORMATION

1. Contact the Local Health Department (LHD) for decontamination requirements specific to your property.
2. Visit the Web sites: www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/ts/cdl.htm and www.metrokc.gov/health/methlabs.

PROCEDURE

1. Use only a DOH certified contractor. A list is available at www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/ts/cdl.htm, or from local health departments.
2. Interview 3-5 companies. Don't just choose by location; many companies travel statewide.
3. Receive proof of the following four documents: 1) WA State Dept. of Labor & Industries General Contractor's License; 2) WA State Dept of Licensing Business License; 3) DOH Clandestine Drug Lab Decontamination Contractor's Certificate; and 4) Insurance Coverage.
4. Discuss insurance coverage; General Liability Insurance & Contractor's Pollution Insurance.

EXPERIENCE

Ask:

1. The contractor for a list of previous cdl decontamination jobs, including references.
2. The local health departments about past performances and verify references.
3. The contractor to explain their decontamination procedure;
 - a. How does this compare to other cdl contractors' procedures?
 - b. Does it appropriately address local health department requirements?
 - c. What is the timeline and date the job will be completed?
2. Yourself what is important: professionalism; knowledge; and experience?

COST

Require the contractor to:

1. Contact LHD for your property's decontamination requirements.
2. Visit the site.
3. Provide an itemized bid that covers LHD's requirements necessary to release property.
4. Clarify additional costs not included in the bid, such as re-cleaning.