



FROM THE AIR PROGRAM

in collaboration with

THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT



WHAT IS METHAMPHETAMINE SURFACE TESTING?

When prior methamphetamine use is suspected in a recently vacated CDD housing unit, the Air Quality Program is asked to determine whether methamphetamine residue is present on surfaces like walls, floors, cabinets, and so on.

The goal is to find out the extent of contamination (one room or many) and to make recommendations about remediation (clean-up).

Once remediation is complete, the unit is re-tested at a more stringent level before the unit is re-occupied.

Methamphetamine is not a naturally occurring substance. Therefore no amount is acceptable. The residue is a persistent, oily substance that is deposited when methamphetamine is smoked. It remains chemically active for years, can aerosolize (get into the air) and can be dermally absorbed (absorbed through the skin). Due to its persistence, ease of absorption and known health risks, methamphetamine residue is a health risk.



HOW DOES SURFACE TESTING WORK?



Initial testing is done at the 500 nanogram level. This means that OVER 500 nanograms of methamphetamine residue is detected on a 10 x 10 centimeter area. This is a very small amount, but the test measures active methamphetamine. This level is used by many states. Test kits contain a gauze pad, a wetting solution, a syringe, an extracting solution and a test cartridge. A detailed protocol is followed for each kit. Results are available in 5 minutes.

A new test kit is used for each area to avoid cross-contamination. Up to 12 areas may be tested. A positive test is indicated by one line on the test cartridge. A negative test is indicated by two lines.

HOW IS REMEDIATION DONE?



Remediation follows US EPA recommendations for clean-up of methamphetamine laboratories. All soft materials like carpet and drapes are removed and replaced. All light fixtures and fans are replaced. All walls and ceilings are washed then painted. All remaining hard surfaces (counters and cabinets) are triple-washed.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

After remediation the unit is tested again, this time at the 100 nanogram level. This test is 5 times more stringent than the initial testing. All areas that initially tested positive are re-tested. A few new areas are also tested. Any positive test requires additional remediation. The unit is not cleared for occupancy until all tests are negative



WHAT IS CDD POLICY?



CDD Policy explicitly prohibits illegal drug activities. Drug possession or drug-related activities can be grounds for eviction:

Eligibility, Admission and Occupancy. Section B. Guidelines & Rules For Occupants; #15 Prohibition of Illegal Drug Activities - Any conviction (including "No contest" pleas) for a drug related criminal activity shall be grounds for immediate termination in accordance with the Homebuyer Agreement/Rental Agreement.

Tribal Police Reports which confirm drug possession, or drug related activities, in a CDD unit will be grounds for termination of the tenancy. Additional testing may be conducted to determine veracity of Tribal Police Reports.