

# Are you sleeping in a former Meth lab when you travel?

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Barbara Stanley

Meth is a dangerous drug that is usually manufactured in homes in the United States. Old barns, abandoned houses, tool sheds, and some automobiles are often used as meth labs. It was reported yesterday by Ivanhoe, that motels are increasingly becoming temporary Meth labs. A quote by John W. Martyny, Ph.D.C.I.H., an associate professor of National Jewish Health, states, "Probably people have gotten into meth labs and haven't really known it."



Indiana State Police Chemicals inside a 2-liter bottle combined to form Meth and residue

When Meth is manufactured, it gets into the air the same way spray aerosols do. It coats every surface in the entire motel room. Exposure causes skin irritation, asthma, and nausea. These symptoms are usually dismissed as caused by other factors. Meth is quickly absorbed into the body through contact with the skin, ingesting, or through breathing.

There is a real concern for toddlers staying in motel rooms that have been formerly used as meth labs. Children crawl around on the floor. They can be overwhelmed by heavy exposure to the Meth or by-products.

For every pound of Meth cooked, there is about six pounds of toxic waste. According to the American Hotel and Lodging Association, methamphetamine labs can be set up in less than four hours. An article from the Associated Press reported that the United States Drug Enforcement Administration found evidence of 1,798 motel rooms used for making drugs in the past five years. Many more go unreported.

While staying at a motel room, do not knock on the door of noisy neighbors. Meth labs always have guns in the room. The cooking usually takes place between mid-night and four Am. There may or may not be multiple visitors to the room. Report suspicious activity to the motel manager.

Even though house-keeping for motels will go into a room and clean after each guest leaves, there can be harmful chemicals left behind on drapes, sinks, bathtubs, and counter surfaces. Any guest who suspects drugs have been manufactured in the room should ask for another room. Children should never be allowed to put anything from the room into their mouth.

If anyone in the motel party experiences unexplained rashes, headaches, nausea, or difficulty breathing, it could be a reaction to residue left behind once the Meth lab has moved on. Anyone experiencing these symptoms should see a physician.

Sources: *Meth in Hotels, The Journal Gazette*  
For More: *Timesfreepress.com*  
Photo: *The Journal Gazette, Indiana State police*



