

## **Methamphetamine Information**

Methamphetamine is a powerful synthetic drug that may be the form of powder, pills, capsules or chunks. It is highly addictive and has long-term impact on both psychological and physical health of users. Abuse and dependence are common.

Methamphetamine is “cooked” in “**meth labs**” from a variety of dangerous chemicals that are harmful to humans and the environment. These may be recognized through the presence of chemical odors such as ammonia or acetone. “Meth labs” can often be identified through the presence of chemical odors, such as ammonia or acetone, excessive window coverings (to hide activities), frequent visitors, and refuse containing empty ephedrine packages/bottles, lithium batteries, and empty propane tanks. If you are aware of a possible meth lab, please notify local law enforcement or the Thurston County Narcotics Task Force (360) 786-0572. For information on cleaning up property that has been contaminated by a meth lab, contact the Environmental Health Division of the Thurston County Health Department at (360) 786-5455.

Methamphetamine use is also becoming associated with “**Identity Theft.**” Meth users, needing money for the drug or supplies to make it,” steal personal identification information. The information is then used to create fraudulent checks and credit cards, or to buy items through the Internet. Local police departments and the Attorney General’s Office for the State of Washington (<http://www.atg.wa.gov/>) provide information on keeping your personal information safe, as well as reporting Identity Theft.