

The Methods

Clandestine Drug Lab Terms

Precursor



Solvent



Catalyst



Reagent



Illicit Drug Lab Hazards

- Commonly have 6 – 8 chemicals at illicit drug labs:
 - 1 precursor
 - 1-2 solvents
 - 1-2 acids
 - 1 alkaline/base
 - 1 catalyst
 - 1-2 gases

Red Phosphorus

(Red-P, HI lab, Tweeker lab)

- **Flammable solvents**
 - Ethyl ether, alcohols, acetone, camp fuel
- **Corrosives**
 - Sodium hydroxide, hydroiodic acid, hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid



Red Phosphorus

(Red-P, HI lab, Tweeker lab)

- Red phosphorus
 - Phosphine gas*
- Hydrogen chloride gas
- Iodine crystals



- * *Unique hazard of conversion of red phosphorus to white phosphorus due to overheating*

Anhydrous Ammonia/Lithium (Nazi Lab)

- **Flammable solvents**
 - Ethyl ether, alcohols, acetone, camp fuel
- **Anhydrous ammonia**
- **Lithium or sodium**
- **Corrosives**
 - Hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid
- **Hydrogen chloride gas**



Gasing Generators



- This is the last stage in both the Red P and the Nazi cook
- Sulfuric acid and rock salt (hydrogen chloride gas)
- Muriatic acid and aluminum foil
- Drops of muriatic acid (hydrochloric acid)

All-In-One Method (One-Pot)

- Same chemicals
- anhydrous method
- One container-one-step process
- * *The unique hazard with this method is the violent rupture of the container and the physical hazards associated with this event.*



Thionyl Chloride-Ephedrine

(Paint Shaker, Hydrogenation Lab)

- **Flammable solvents**
 - Ethyl ether
 - Alcohols
 - Acetone
 - Camp fuel
- **Toxic**
 - Chloroform (when heated, forms phosgene gas)
- **Corrosive atmosphere**
 - Thionyl chloride

Thionyl Chloride-Ephedrine

(Paint Shaker, Hydrogenation Lab)

- Flammable gas
 - Hydrogen
- Air reactive
 - Raney nickel
- Water reactive
 - Palladium black

Phenyl-2- Propanone Method

(Biker method, foil method)

- **Flammable solvents**
 - Ethyl ether
 - Alcohols
 - Acetone
 - Camp fuel
- **Corrosives**
 - Hydrochloric acid
 - Sodium hydroxide
 - Hydrogen chloride gas
- **Methylamine**
- **Mercuric chloride**

MDMA (Ecstasy)

- Flammable solvents
 - Ethyl ether
 - Alcohols
 - Acetone
 - Camp fuel
- Corrosives
 - Hydrochloric acid
 - Sodium hydroxide
 - Hydrogen chloride gas
- Methylamine
- Mercuric chloride

GHB

(Date Rape Drug)

- Gamma-butyrolactone (GBL)
- Sodium hydroxide
- Ingestible “table” acid, such as lemon juice

Urine Extraction

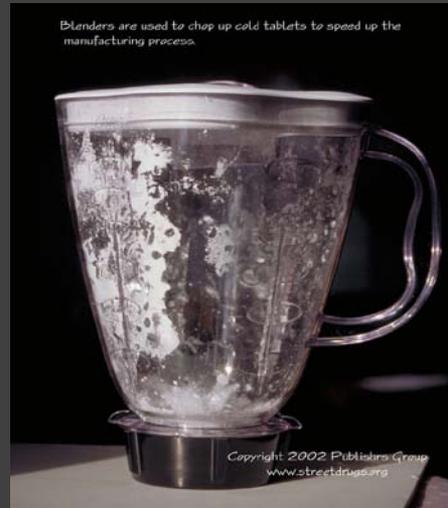
- Collection of gallons of urine
- Addition of a base
 - Ammonium hydroxide
 - Sodium hydroxide not preferred
- Extraction of meth/amphetamine oil from urine
 - Organic solvent (toluene)
- Salted-out with HCL gas

Precursor (Ephedrine/Pseudo-Ephedrine)

- Over-the-counter drugs in pill containers
- Required for all 3 “easy” methods
 - Ephedrine or pseudo-ephedrine
 - Liquid cold medicines
 - “Stay Awake” pills sold at truck stops – banned?
 - Capsules and tablets



Precursor Extraction



- Grinding up tablets

Solvents for Extractions



Separation



- Separate liquid & evaporate or cook off solvent

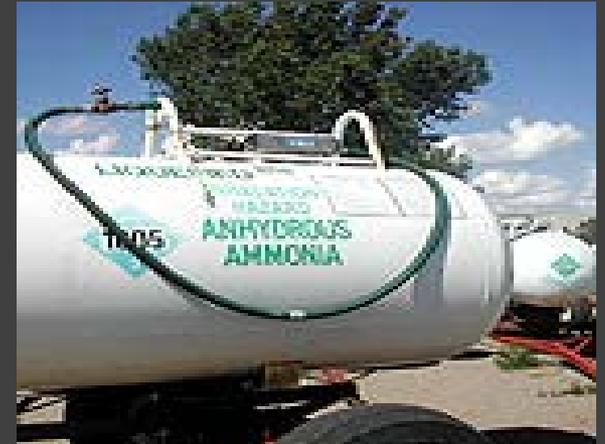
Anhydrous Ammonia Method

**ANHYDROUS
MEANS
WITHOUT WATER**

=

**CONCENTRATED
FORM OF CHEMICAL**

Anhydrous Ammonia Method



- No Heat
- “Mason Jar” Chemistry
- No Red Stains
- Heavy Frost on Reaction Vessel
- Ammonia Smell
- Outside or Well Ventilated Area



Red Phosphorus Method



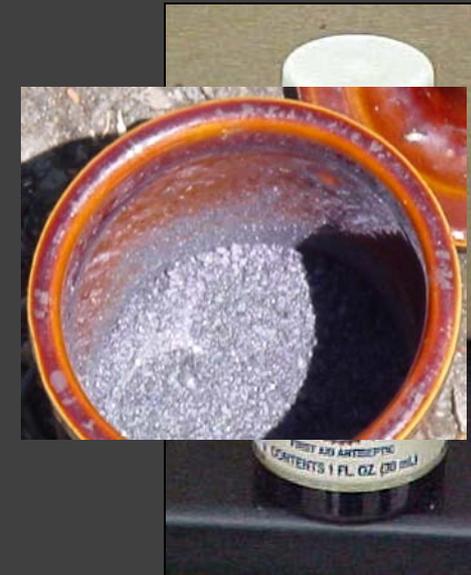
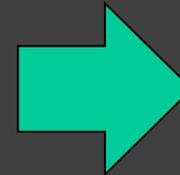
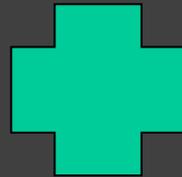
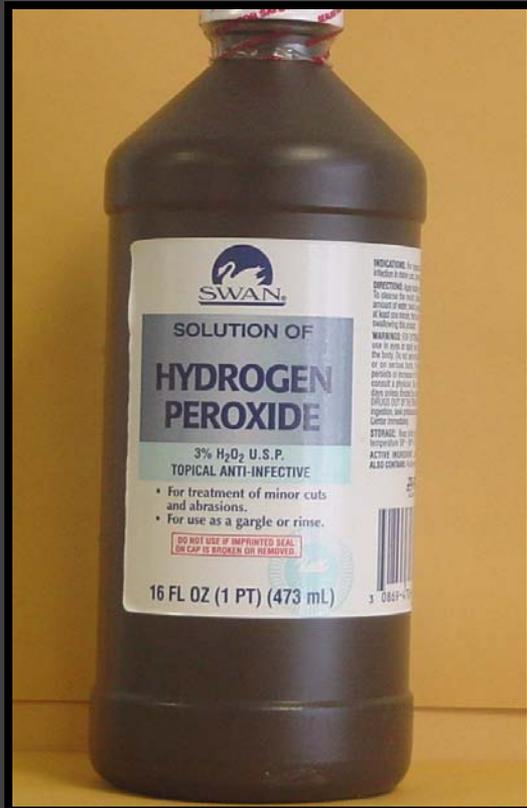
Catalyst



RED PHOSPHOROUS extraction most often
from the striker plates of matches

Concentrating Iodine

- Hydrogen peroxide used to precipitate iodine crystals from liquid form
- Look for purple stained material



One Pot Method

- All materials go into one “Pot”
- Used for making small batches
- Uses most of the same materials as the anhydrous ammonia method

Volcano or 30 Second Red P Method

- Ephedrine
- Iodine crystals
- Red phosphorus
- Heat