

Clandestine Laboratory Remediation



ChemCentre helps organisations and the community to manage issues associated with illicit drug residues and remediation of clandestine laboratory (clan lab) sites. Our services are available to members of the public, including concerned property owners and tenants, and authorities at local and state level.

Clan labs — a growing problem

ChemCentre is the only laboratory in Western Australia currently accredited for forensic drug analysis. We work with Western Australia Police to identify, dismantle and analyse clan labs, and through this work we have become a leading authority in the area including clan lab remediation.

Clan lab sites and their remediation (clean-up and decontamination to meet regulatory requirements) are growing issues in Australia. They are now treated as contaminated sites, and therefore potentially pose a risk to inhabitants, property owners and managers.

Clan lab contamination

Once drug manufacturing chemicals and equipment have been removed from a property, chemicals may remain on surfaces and furnishings. Some examples of chemical residues (including toxic chemicals with potentially damaging health effects) are:

- Illicit drugs such as methamphetamine
- Chemicals used in the manufacturing process
- Waste and by-products

If clan lab residues are detected within a dwelling, it may be deemed unfit for human habitation. Inhabiting the site of a previous clan lab can result in serious health problems, particularly for children who are more likely to be in contact with surfaces and furnishings containing these residues.

Scientific analyses and expert advice

ChemCentre's clan lab remediation team offers a suite of services:

- Advice on sampling, including quantity and techniques
- Sampling and swabbing for any residual chemicals
- Comprehensive, one-stop-shop analyses for chemical residues associated with illicit drug manufacture
- Scientific reports containing data for all submitted samples

Our team also offers a number of services for non-clan-lab areas:

- Swab analysis for methamphetamine and other illicit drug residues
- Self-sampling swabkits for private property owners and tenants

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ChemCentre scientists are highly experienced in supplying analyses to assist in legal matters and can provide expert testimony if required.

All services are conducted within accredited facilities with strict quality guidelines.

In the case of clan labs, a report is required under Department of Health guidelines to be provided to the local government Environmental Health Officer who can use the information to determine whether the site is suitable for habitation.

Homeowners with properties not associated with clan labs do not fall under these guidelines and may therefore perform residue testing without the need to report to their local government.

Where decontamination is required (either by the owner or via an industrial cleaning service), ChemCentre also provides testing for samples taken post-decontamination to determine whether any chemical residues are still present.

Expertise and peace of mind

Having worked for nearly 20 years with issues associated with clan labs in Western Australia, ChemCentre's experts have first-hand experience in addressing the dangers of clan labs and chemical exposure. ChemCentre scientists attend every clan lab with Western Australia Police.

How can we help?

Our expert advice sets us apart from others. To find out more and discuss your requirements, please contact the clan lab team at clanlabremediation@chemcentre.wa.gov.au



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