



PROPERTY CONTAMINATION SPECIALISTS



METH XPERT NZ METHAMPHETAMINE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

A STEP BY STEP
GUIDE
FOR YOU OUR
CLIENT





OUR PRIMARY ROLE IN CONTAMINATION DETECTION IS TO:

- Determine the presence or absence of methamphetamine contamination
- Establish the extent and magnitude of any methamphetamine contamination (if present)
- Provide input to the design of any decontamination works and waste disposal plan (if decontamination is required)
- Determine whether or not the property has been decontaminated successfully to meet the requirements of NSZ8510:2017



IF YOU SEE THIS BUTTON



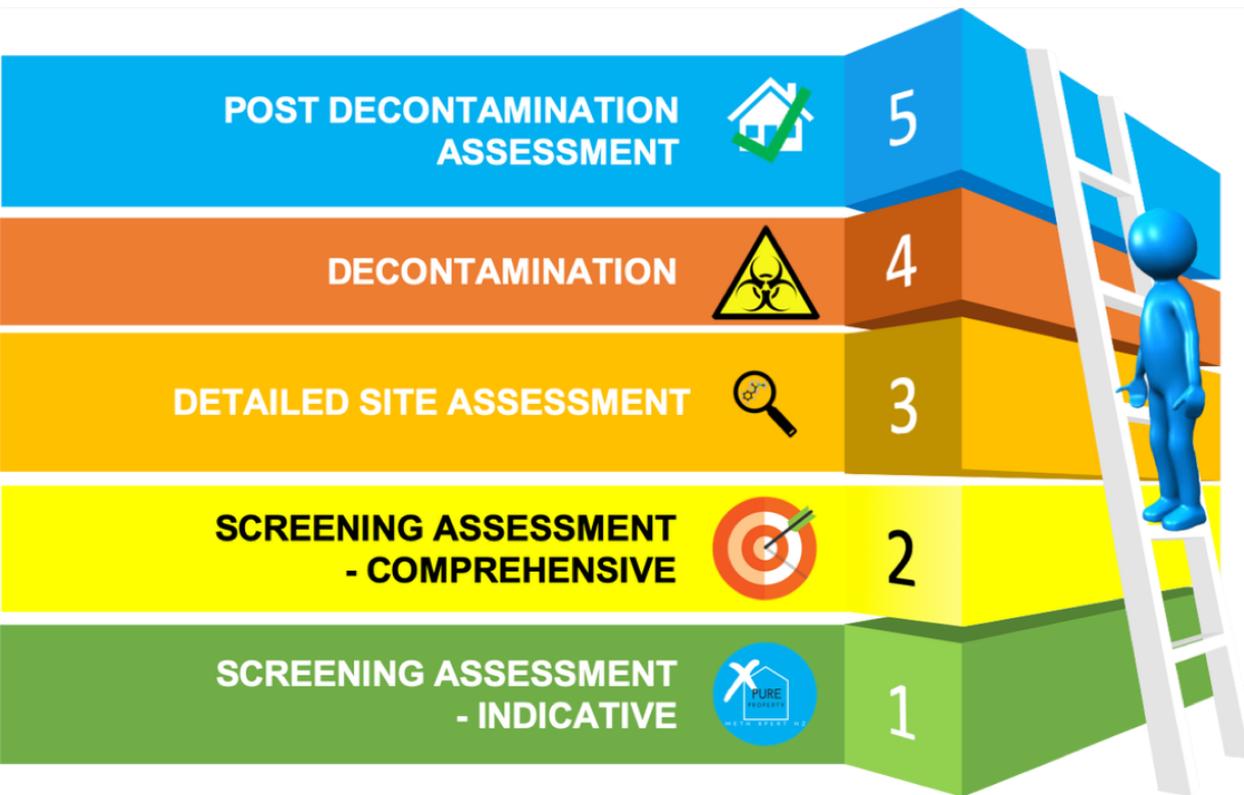
THE BOOK NOW BUTTON IS CLICKABLE THROUGHOUT THIS EBOOK, YOU CAN USE THIS TO BOOK THE ASSESSMENT YOU REQUIRE



PROPERTY **CONTAMINATION** SPECIALISTS

METH XPERT NZ'S FIVE STEP METHAMPHETAMINE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The methamphetamine assessment ladder is designed to make it easy to identify exactly what stage of the process you are in, and to illustrate the required steps for working towards a property that complies with NZS8510:2017. This coincides with Meth Xpert NZ's traffic light reporting system.



ADVANTAGES OF USING THE LADDER

Knowing where you are and what you are doing is important, its hard to keep track during stressful times, like when your property is confirmed with having methamphetamine contamination, so using the ladder is a great tool for you, our clients.

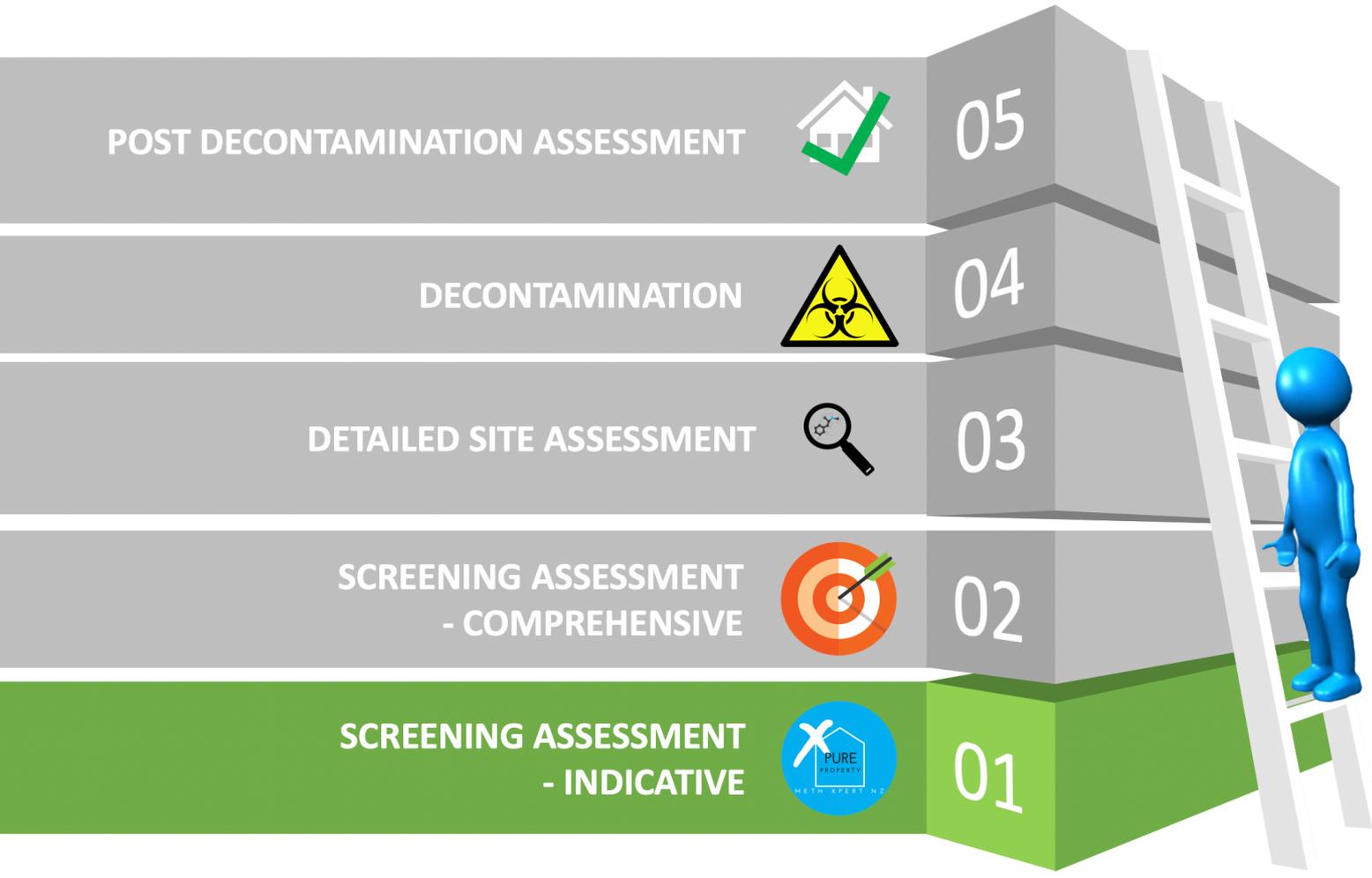


STEP 1

SCREENING ASSESSMENT INDICATIVE

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PURPOSE

A Screening Assessment is conducted to determine the presence or absence of methamphetamine contamination, it is the first step that employs the most cost effective method of testing. This assessment is most commonly used by property managers/landlords as a pre tenancy/post tenancy baseline determination. It is also used by a property purchaser to satisfy the toxicology condition of sale and purchase agreement.

WHO CAN CONDUCT THIS ASSESSMENT?

The person conducting the sampling and reporting MUST hold a minimum of one of the following qualifications:



NZQA Certified Sampler, unit standards 30892,30893,and 30894



IANZ ACCREDITED 17020
Independent Inspection Body
OR IANZ ACCREDITED 17025 with the scope of sample collection

POSSIBLE OUTCOMES



PASS

If the property meets the requirements of the New Zealand Standard NZS 8510:2017, Meth Xpert NZ will issue a Screening Assessment Report and Certificate of Assessment that holds our IANZ Accreditation Endorsement.



FURTHER ASSESSMENT REQUIRED

If “Potential Maximum” traces are above the limits of the Standard (1.5µg/100cm²) further investigation is required.

MOVE TO STEP 2 (Screening Assessment - Comprehensive)

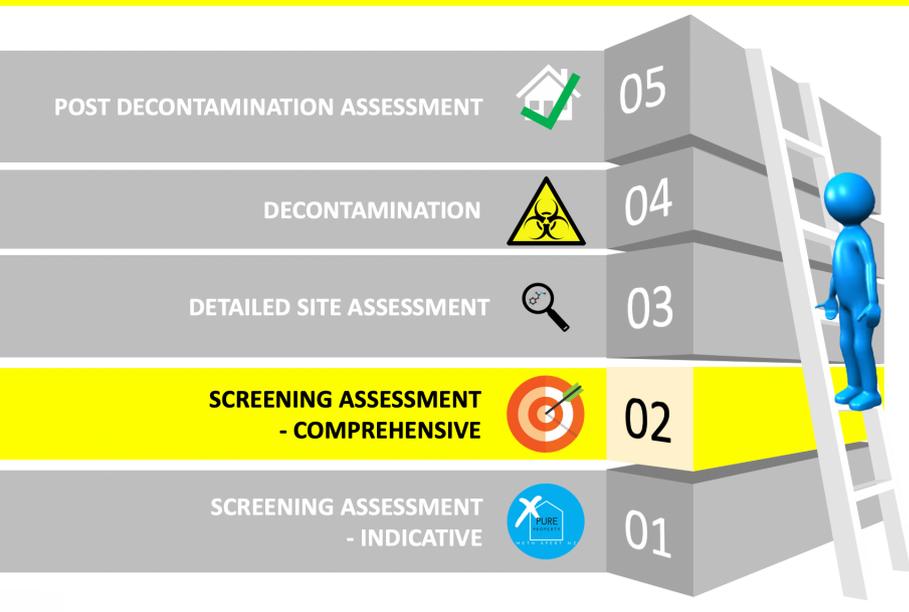
PLEASE NOTE: There are different requirements outlined in section 3.2 & 3.3 of NZS8510:2017 for Screening Assessment and Detailed Site Assessment criteria. Step 2 is a screening assessment by way of discreet analysis to confirm whether or not a property meets the requirements of NZS8510:2017

ONLY SWABS COLLECTED BY AN IANZ ACCREDITED SAMPLING COMPANY CAN BE TRANSFERRED AND USED FOR STEP 3 IF NECESSARY

STEP 2

SCREENING ASSESSMENT COMPREHENSIVE

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WHO CAN CONDUCT THIS ASSESSMENT?

NZQA
NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY
MANA TOHU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA

NZQA Certified Sampler, unit standards 30892, 30893, and 30894

IANZ

IANZ ACCREDITED 17020
Independent Inspection Body
OR IANZ ACCREDITED 17025 with the
scope of sample collection

PURPOSE

A Comprehensive Screening Assessment is the first part of further investigations after an Indicative Screening Assessment, indicates potential levels that could exceed the requirements of NZS8510:2017. It depends on the results from the Indicative Screening Assessment (Step 1), that determines the best approach for this assessment. This assessment confirms areas that require decontamination (if necessary) in the cheapest possible way, in accordance with the Standard. However, it is not sufficient to eliminate areas from the decontamination scope of works.

PLEASE NOTE: SCREENING ASSESSMENT CERTIFICATION CAN ONLY BE ISSUED IF ALL HIGH USE AREAS WITHIN THE PROPERTY ARE BELOW THE THRESHOLD OF $1.5\mu\text{g}/100\text{cm}^2$

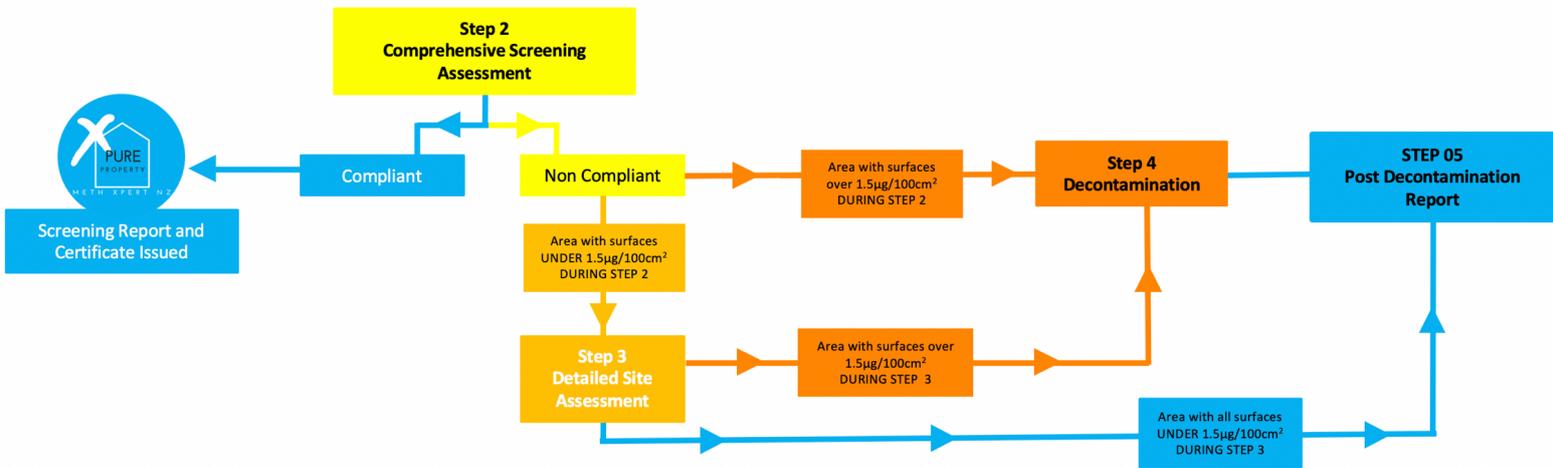
Individual samples can be re-analysed all at once, or one at a time (to save unnecessary expenses) depending on how close to the threshold of ($1.5\mu\text{g}/100\text{cm}^2$) the “potential maximum” was within the Indicative Assessment. Rooms that are suspected to be contaminated should be analysed first. These individual results can then be deducted from the Potential maximum result, with the intension of reducing the potential maximum to meet screening assessment criteria. This process is done in consultation with the property owner who may or may not have suspicions on the source of the contamination.

It is recommended an IANZ Accredited company is employed at this stage, as

WARNING: results from a NZQA sampler that doesn't hold IANZ Accreditation cannot be used in further steps. This can result in unnecessary expenses

STEP 2

POSSIBLE OUTCOMES



COMPLIANT

If individual analysis of some, or all swabs reduce the “Potential Maximum” calculations to below the limits of the Standard (1.5µg/100cm²).

The Property has passed a Screening Assessment in accordance with the NZS8510;2017 requirements. Meth Xpert NZ will issue a Screening Assessment Report and Certificate of Assessment that holds our IANZ Accreditation Endorsment.



NON COMPLIANT

If ANY Individual Area exceeds the limits of NZS8510:2017 (1.5µg/100cm²) Screening Assessment criteria is no longer appropriate to determine whether or not an area is below the 1.5µg/100cm².

There is additional assessment criteria requirements within section 3.3 of NZS8510:2017. This section states the remainder of the property MUST undergo a - Detailed Site Assessment (STEP 3) to determine the true extent and magnitude of contamination. PLEASE NOTE: Step 3 MUST be done by an IANZ Accredited Sampler **THESE SWABS CAN BE USED AS PART 1 of 2 to complete Step 3. However, ONLY RESULTS COLLECTED BY AN IANZ ACCREDITED SAMPLING COMPANY CAN BE TRANSFERRED AND USED FOR STEP 3.** NZQA Sampler results are unable to be used at this point.

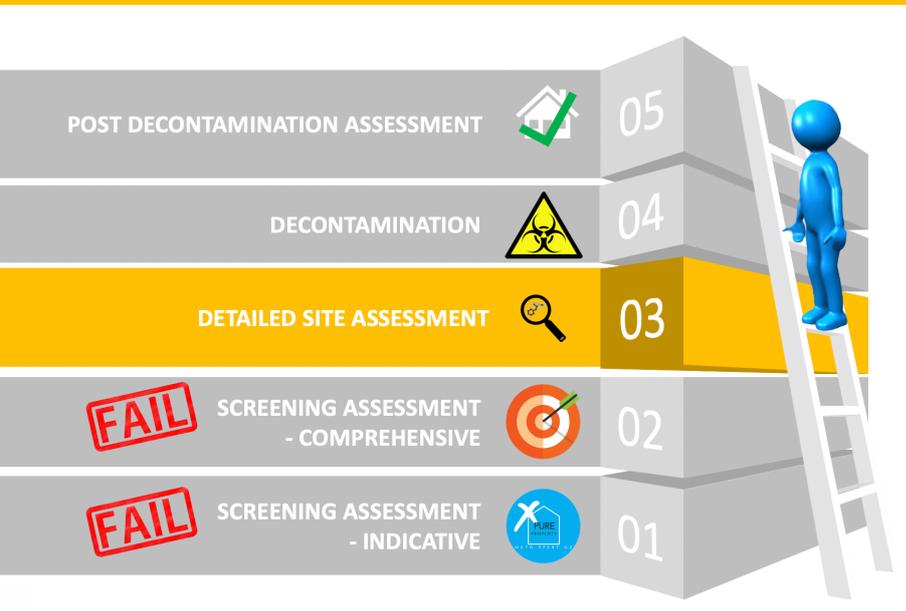
GO TO STEP 3

STEP 3

BOOK NOW!

08

DETAILED SITE ASSESSEMENT



WHO CAN CONDUCT THIS ASSESSEMENT?

ONLY IANZ ACCREDITED 17020 Independent Inspection Body

OR IANZ ACCREDITED 17025 with the scope of sample collection
ACCREDITED LABORATORIES CANNOT MEET THE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS OF NZS8510:2017



[CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT WHAT AN IANZ ACCREDITED SAMPLER IS](#)

PURPOSE

If ANY area is confirmed over the limits within the New Zealand Standard during a Screening Assessment (Steps 1 or 2), A Detailed Site Assessment is required. This is conducted to measure the true extent and magnitude of contamination, which then informs and designs the decontamination scope of works. In this assessment, in accordance with NZS8510:2017 requirements Individual samples are taken by an IANZ Accredited sampler, from multiple surfaces in each room, this depends on the range of materials with in the area, and the size of the room. This assessment conclusively eliminates areas from the decontamination scope of works, or alternatively confirms areas that are required to be added to the decontamination scope of works.

NZS8510:2017 DETAILED SITE ASSESSEMENT REQUIREMENTS

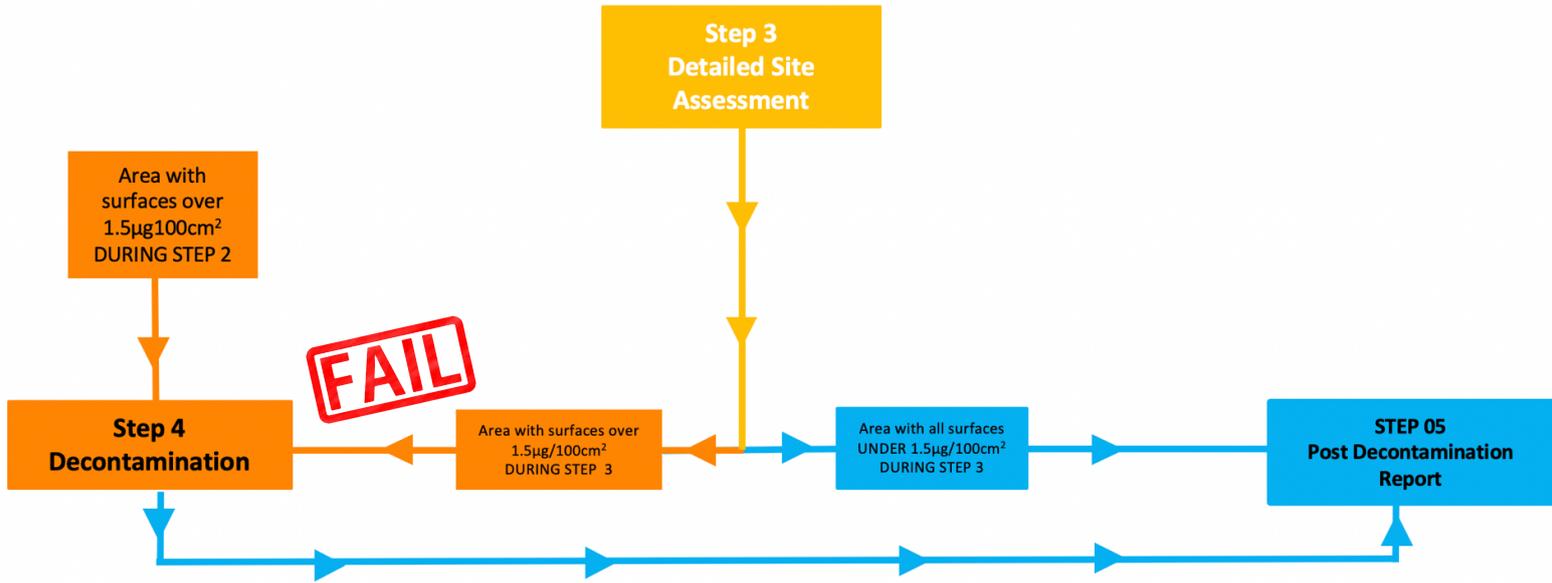
AS PER SECTION 3.3 NZS8510:2017

- A sample plan/quote must be submitted to the client for acceptance
- Areas are measured to determine floor area
- Materials are documented within each area
- Areas greater than 10m² require additional samples /10m² of additional floor space
- All materials must be assessed within an area as residue levels will differ between materials.
- Sample Collection and Sample plan **MUST** be signed off by IANZ Accredited Sampler

STEP 3

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POSSIBLE OUTCOMES



DECONTAMINATION

A property on step 3 has confirmed that decontamination is required (step 4). This could be due to a failed screening assessment or if known drug activity has occurred, some may choose to skip steps 1 & 2. This assessment meets NZS8510:2017 criteria set out in section 3.3 to confirm whether or not an individual room or area can be included or excluded from the decontamination scope of works.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Why do I need to have more samples taken if the room has tested below 1.5?

A: **section 3.3.3.1 (D) of NZS8510:2017 states " for areas greater than 10m² of floorspace an additional surface shall be samples for each additional 10m² or fraction thereof.** This means a room cannot be excluded from a decontamination scope of works until this criteria is met. In a screening assessment, only one swab is required, however once a property has failed a screening assessment, (even if only one area) the remainder of the property is subject to this criteria. In a detailed site assessment, there is also a requirement to consider all materials within an area. section 3.3.3.2(a) states "The range of material types (for example, painted plasterboard, painted or varnished timber, or concrete- this is important as methamphetamine retention varies on different materials and coating types.

STEP 4

DECONTAMINATION

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PURPOSE

The purpose of methamphetamine decontamination is to reduce the levels of methamphetamine contamination within a property to be within the limits of the New Zealand Standard.

WHO CAN UNDERTAKE THIS WORK?

A decontaminating contractor shall demonstrate competence in decontaminating methamphetamine-contaminated properties.

Examples of demonstrating competence include:

- Having completed a recognised industry training organisation programme;
- Producing evidence of appropriate knowledge and experience in decontamination work, or supervision of such work;
- Being a member of an appropriate industry association that has a code of ethics relating to decontamination work; or
- Being accredited to undertake decontamination work

PROCESS

Steps in the decontamination process typically include but are not limited to:

- Developing a scope of work based on the detailed assessment report (step 3)
- Ventilate all areas, where practicable;
- Decontaminate or remove and dispose of contents;
- Check ventilation systems and heat pumps;
- Vacuum interior surfaces using a high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter vacuum, as required;
- Clean all interior surfaces using a three-stage process as per decontamination chemical manufacturer specifications
- Flush plumbing traps;
- Encapsulate structural surfaces after first attempting to decontaminate such surfaces;
- Dispose of waste at a contaminated waste disposal site;
- **Prepare a decontamination clearance report an Certificate on completion of the process.**

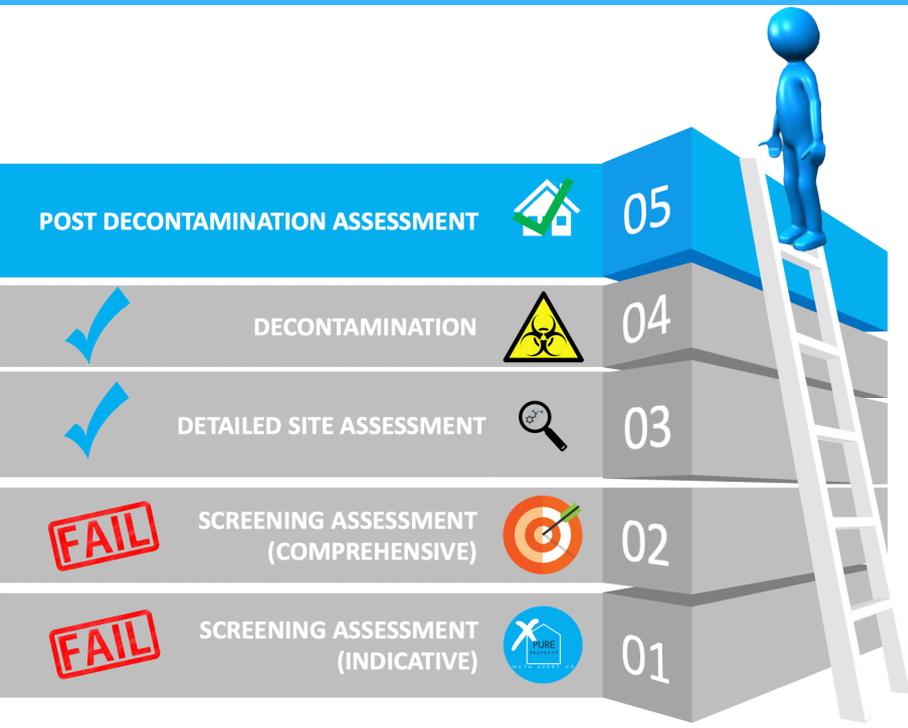


STEP 5

POST DECONTAMINATION ASSESSEMENT

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NZS8510:2017 POST DECONTAMINATION ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

AS PER SECTION 5.0 NZS8510:2017

- A sample plan/quote must be submitted to the client for acceptance
- Areas are measured to determine floor area
- Materials are documented within each area
- Areas greater than 10m² require additional samples / 10m² of additional floor space
- All materials must be assessed within an area as residue levels will differ between materials.
- **Areas that have not met the requirements set out on page 08 (Step 3) are required to be assessed.**
- Sample Collection and Sample plan MUST be signed off by IANZ Accredited Sampler

PURPOSE

The Post Decontamination Assessment is required to verify the effectiveness and completion of the decontamination scope of works. It independently assess all works have been completed in accordance with the New Zealand Standard. This is a requirement set out under section 5 of NZS8510:207 for verification that the property has been successfully remediated and that all clearance documentation and certification can be issued in accordance with the New Zealand Standard.

WHO CAN CONDUCT THIS ASSESSMENT?

ONLY IANZ ACCREDITED 17020 Independent Inspection Body
OR IANZ ACCREDITED 17025 with the scope of sample collection

PLEASE NOTE: ACCREDITED LABORATORIES CANNOT MEET THE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS OF NZS8510:2017



[CLICK HERE TO WATCH VIDEO ON WHAT AN IANZ ACCREDITED SAMPLER IS](#)



STEP 5

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ACCEPTABLE METHODOLOGIES

NZS 8510:2017 allows two types of analysis for a post decontamination assessment. These are as follows:

- Discreet swab individual analysis
- Area Specific Composite Analysis

As with anything, there are advantages and disadvantages to both methodologies. Before making a decision on what type of analysis you require, it's important to understand the benefits of each in order to make an informed decision.

DISCREET SWAB ANALYSIS

Discreet samples are a single wipe collected from a single templated area and submitted to an IANZ accredited laboratory for analysis as a unique location.

Once analysed, the IANZ Accredited laboratory will report to the IANZ Accredited sampler, the amount of methamphetamine recovered from the templated surface. This represents the amount of methamphetamine for that 100cm² templated area.

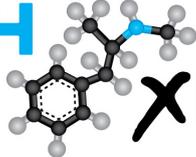
Advantages

Individual results - giving full picture for the surface swabbed

Disadvantages

Expensive - NZS 8510:2017 requires 1 x sample to be collected per 10m² of floor space, and all materials within an area must be considered. This means in some cases 5-6 samples per room is necessary depending on the materials. With this methodology, you are paying the laboratory for individual analysis of each of those 5-6 samples. Costs can increase significantly, depending on the amount of materials in each room, the size of the room, and the amount of areas requiring sampling in order for clearance to be issued.



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WWW.METHXPERT.CO.NZ

**OUR TRUSTED
IANZ ACCREDITED
LABORATORY IS:**

 **Hill Laboratories**
TRIED, TESTED AND TRUSTED

WWW.HILL-LABORATORIES.COM

LABORATORY COMPOSITE ANALYSIS

Discreet samples are collected as per NZS 8510:2017 requirements. For property clearance each specific area requires 1 x sample per 10m² of floor space, and each material within the area is required to be considered. The difference with this methodology is that each sample is submitted to the laboratory as an individual, however the laboratory is requested to perform a composite analysis of each area. The laboratory extract even amounts from each sample from within the area identified, and create a new sample called the "laboratory composite" for that area. Below is an image that illustrates how a laboratory composite analysis is put together for three areas. The laboratory can report an average of methamphetamine found within the laboratory composite, and the "potential maximum" (the total) of all methamphetamine recovered from the laboratory composite. The potential maximum assumes that all methamphetamine recovered is from 1 swab within the composite. NZS8510:2017 requires all potential maximum concentrations within an individual to NOT exceed 1.5µg/100cm².

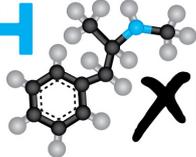
Advantages

Cost Effective - You are effectively only paying for one analysis per area, therefore saving laboratory analysis fees. Up to 10 for the price of 1 - The Laboratory can include unto 10 swabs within a composite. The laboratory hold the samples for further individual analysis if required. If the potential maximum does exceed 1.5µg/100cm², the decision can be made to either; Apply a further decontamination treatment to the area, or Individually analyse samples within the laboratory composite, (this can be done all at once, or one at a time) this decision can be made in consultation with the decontamination contractor, depending on how close to 1.5µg/100cm² the POTENTIAL MAXIMUM is.

Disadvantages

Potential Maximum result - If the potential maximum result exceeds 1.5µg/100cm², it is inconclusive as to which material from the area the contamination is from. As the laboratory are adding each sample within to the composite, the more samples within the composite, the higher the risk of the calculation exceeding 1.5µg/100cm².



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USEFUL INFORMATION AND LINKS:

- [NZS 8510:2017](#)

<https://www.standards.govt.nz/assets/Publication-files/NZS8510-2017.pdf>

- [IANZ Directory](#)

Keyword: Methamphetamine

www.ianz.govt.nz/directory

- www.methxpert.co.nz

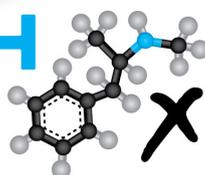
EDUCATIONAL VIDEO LINKS

- [What is an NZQA Sampler](#)
- [What is an IANZ Accredited Sampler](#)
- [What is an IANZ Accredited Laboratory](#)
- [Expert Witness](#)
- [How Pure Is Your Property?](#)



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