

Once again, drug-enforcement teams are warning retailers about new signs to watch for -- repeated purchases of garden fertilizer or cold packs, a source for ammonia, cold tablets, and lithium batteries. And they're warning the public about the danger of discarded pop bottles that may carry residual chemicals that can be explosive and flammable.



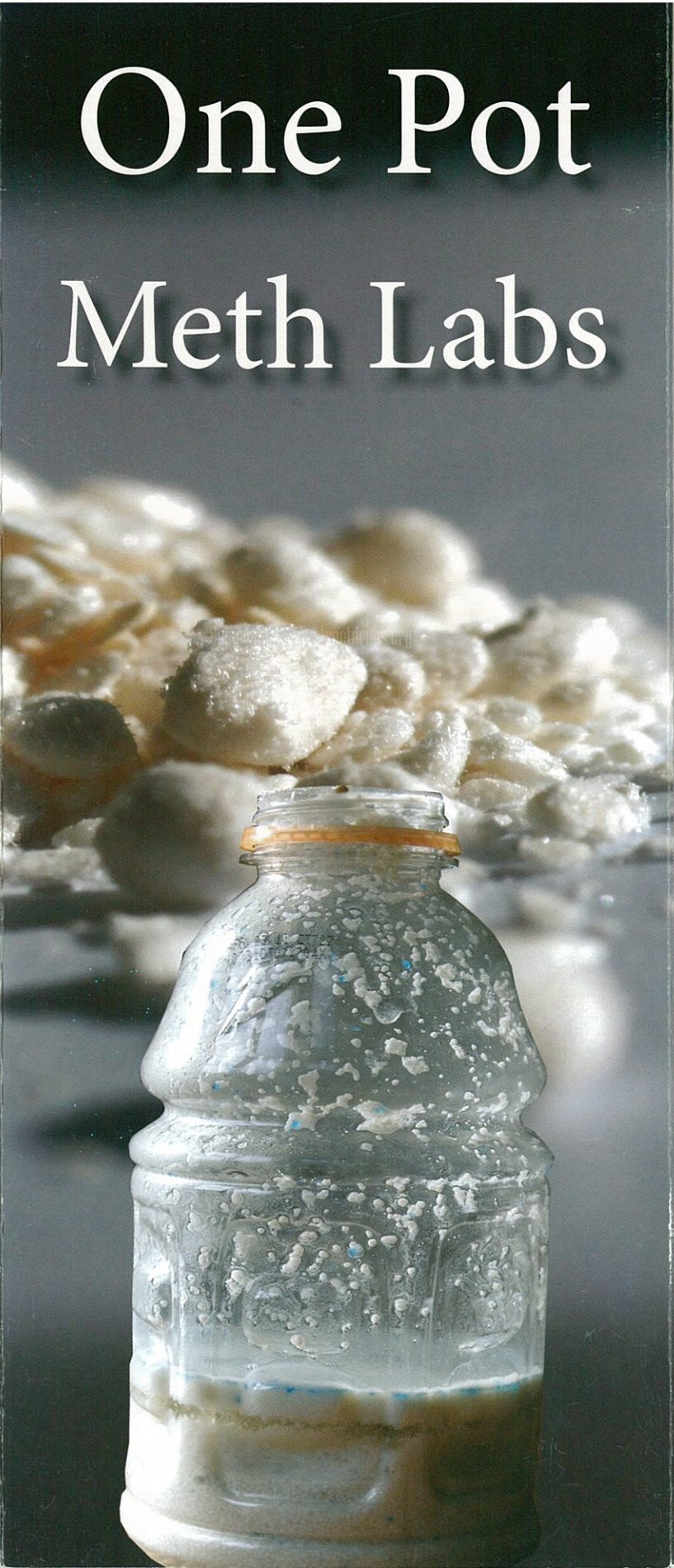
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One Pot Meth Labs

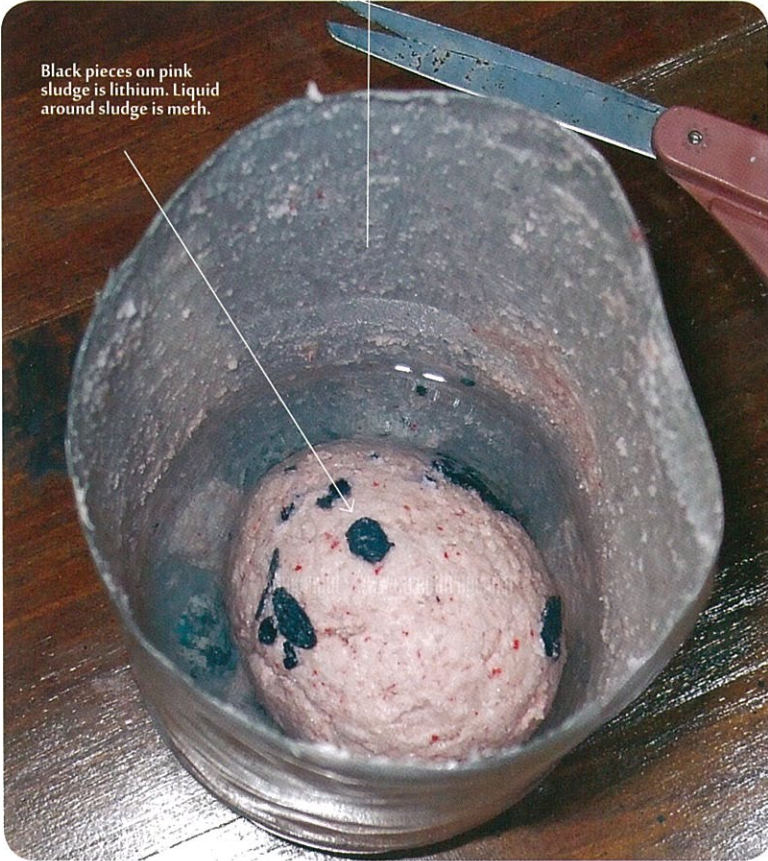


"One Pot" meth lab bottles seized by police.

The "one pot" meth manufacturing process has been around for several years, but as a vehicle to making meth, this method has grown briskly across America over the last couple years.

Meth labs of the past (referred to as garage labs) required hundreds or thousands of cold tablets, a large quantity of fuel, other household chemicals, glassware and other products and a room large enough to set up the lab. Making meth using the "one pot" method, is accomplished by pouring all the ingredients into a plastic soda bottle, or other container. The ingredients are then mixed by shaking (shake and bake) the container and regulating the pressure created by the chemical reaction of the cold tablets and household chemicals. The quantity of meth is small, usually enough for one or two doses, with quality varying.

Law enforcement officials claim the new "one pot" process is more dangerous than the "garage labs". When the "garage labs" caught fire, the "cooker" would simply run away. But with the "one pot" method, the "cooker" is frequently holding the bottle when it fails. Police in Georgia, Alabama, Oklahoma and other states have linked dozens of flash fires, some of them fatal, to meth manufacturing using the "one pot" method. Some law enforcement officials are finding that the "cooker" will mix the ingredients in a container at the side of the road then leave it unattended for a couple hours. When the "cooker" returns, if the bottle has not failed he/she will retrieve the meth and pour out the remaining chemicals in the ditch creating an environment and health hazard.



Black pieces on pink sludge is lithium. Liquid around sludge is meth.

Making meth using the “one pot” method is often done in a moving vehicle, garage or other out building, National Park or the “one pot” lab is set at the side of the road to cook while the owner moved safely away. After some time the owner will return to retrieve the bottle providing all went well. All that was left to do now was to “salt out” the meth from the liquid in the bottle.

The chemical mixture in a “one pot” container could burst into flames when exposed to oxygen, making it extremely dangerous for an police officer or private citizen who might unscrew the lid of what may look like an ordinary soda bottle. In addition, one little mistake, such as unscrewing the bottle cap too fast, could result in the bottle bursting open splashing a dangerous chemical mix over the person holding the bottle or others nearby. This chemical cocktail can cause life threatening third-degree burns. Should the victim absorb enough of the chemical mix through his skin, death could occur for a meth overdose.

Every meth recipe is dangerous, but with the “one pot” labs, if you don’t mix the ingredients just right, you can build up too much pressure, and the container can burst. One pot plastic containers do not explode, they fail because of the chemical reaction on the thin plastic wall of the bottle, or the lithium burning through the plastic bottle causing the contents to burst into flames.

Ingredients

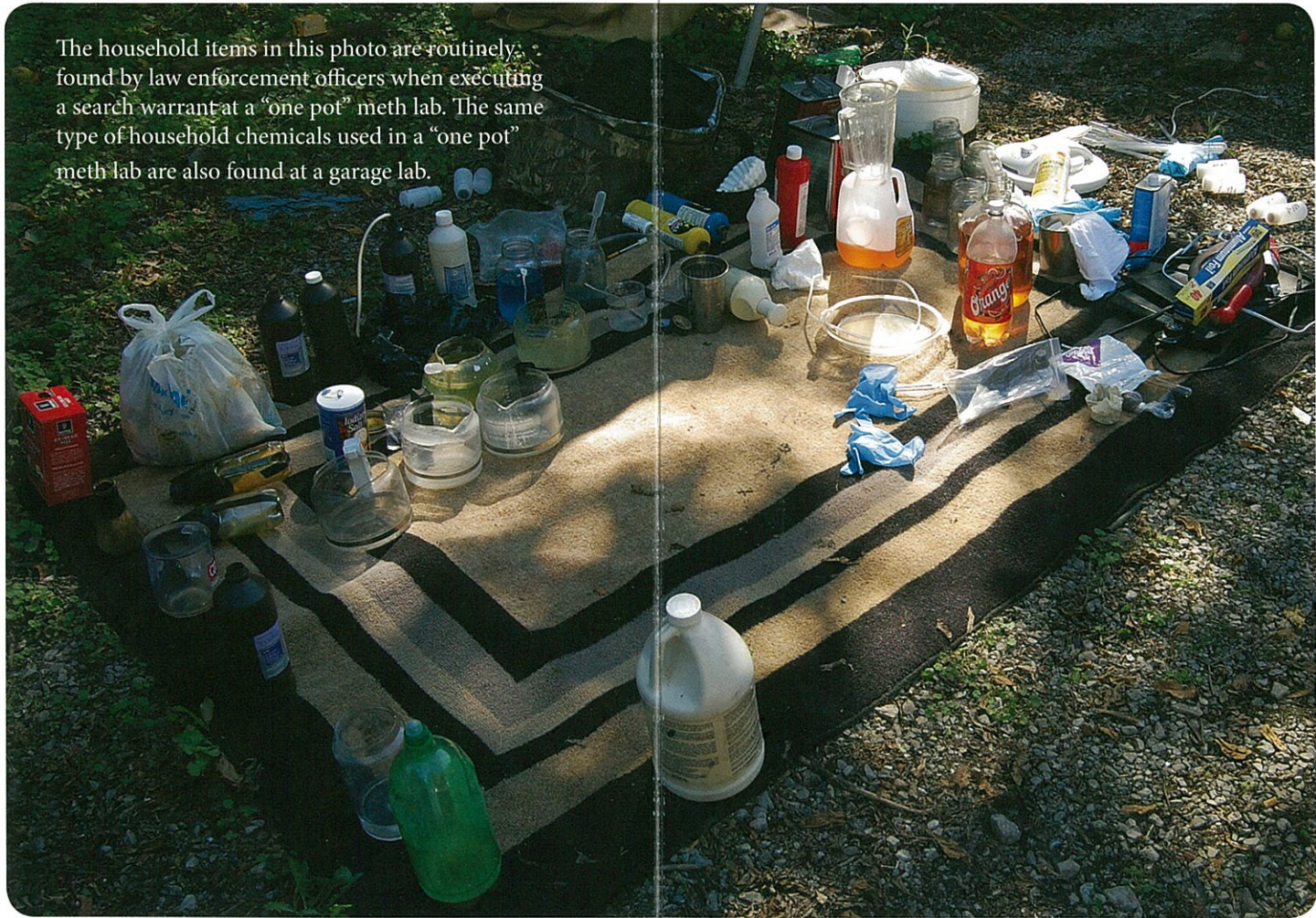
“One pot” meth labs use the same or similar kinds of chemicals that are used in “garage labs.” Anhydrous ammonia (or fertilizer from which it is extracted), pseudoephedrine tablets, water, and the reactive metal (ie. Lithium), lye and solvents. The ingredients and placed into one container from the beginning of the process.

Authorities recommend that individuals who encounter discarded plastic bottles containing an unknown mixture take all proper precautions for fire and chemical explosions, move quickly away from the container, secure the area and dial 911.



Dark area is lithium.

Mixture of ammonium, water, lithium, various solvents, sodium hydroxide and the other ingredients used to make meth.



The household items in this photo are routinely found by law enforcement officers when executing a search warrant at a “one pot” meth lab. The same type of household chemicals used in a “one pot” meth lab are also found at a garage lab.



Homemade HCL gas generator.

The bottle above is designed to produce Hydrogen Chloride Gas (HCL) which is used for the final process in making meth.



Methamphetamine