



SAFE ENCASUREMENT SYSTEMS-MIDWEST

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ENCASEMENT AS PART OF METH LAB REMEDIATIONS

PROBLEM: Meth lab (methyl amphetamine) remediations are becoming more common place as more of these illegal operations are discovered and shut down, and the facilities returned to their normal function as needed housing stock. After any remaining hazardous chemicals are removed, and disposal of lower cost non-cleanable porous surface items (carpet, furniture, drapes, etc.) has taken place, one is frequently left with contaminated porous surfaces, for which removal and replacement costs will be quite high or maybe out of the question, leading to partial or complete demolition of the site. Because of the porosity of these surfaces, adequate removal of entrapped contaminants is rarely achieved by cleaning. Examples of such surfaces are concrete block walls, concrete floors, wood floors, paneling and trim, sheetrock, certain types of insulation systems, HVAC systems, etc. A good barrier coating is needed.

Solution: The US-EPA has previously promulgated rules for barrier coatings for the abatement of hazardous surfaces such as asbestos and lead-based paints. These rules stipulate that the independent lab tested and accepted as compliant coating will last for at least 20 years, must among others properties have a specific low permeability (perm) rating, it must achieve a certain minimum adhesion rating, and perhaps most importantly, it must remain flexible indefinitely. When the properties deemed critical by the US-EPA for barrier coatings over hazardous surfaces are compared to the requirements for abating meth lab contamination, coating systems such as the Safe Encasement Systems 2-coat system are found to be ideally suited to eliminating the hazards of porous building materials contaminated with chemicals used in meth labs. The need for a flexible barrier that will "stay stuck" and last virtually as long as the surface it protects, with a perm rating that will not allow the passage of the hazardous materials is a perfect fit. Perhaps the only additional need with meth lab remediations is to contain the volatile precursors and solvents used as part of the manufacturing process and which have permeated porous building materials. This is to say that the perm rating of the coating system must be sufficiently low that neither meth nor any of the associated chemicals will pass through the flexible barrier created by the encasement system. Further, a question that should be raised with respect to any coating or coating system used for meth lab remediation is can some of these chemicals work their way through this barrier by their combined properties of solvency and vapor pressure? SAFE Encasement Systems' use of a highly flexible penetrating primer (SE-110-MS, multi-surface primer for all metal and non-metal surfaces) provides the first barrier, at a level of adhesion that is nearly 2x that of other encapsulants, and will physically tie up those chemicals with either or both good solvent properties and mobility properties. Then the application of the SE-130 satin-finish and tintable topcoat completes the formation of this long-lasting flexible barrier. This approach has been used during meth lab remediations where all surface and air sampling on a before and after basis proved its effectiveness. Plus you have the data required by the US-EPA for coatings used to abate other surface hazards which ensures that this barrier will stay stuck and flexible for essentially the life of the surface.

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