

Buying Ephedrine & Pseudoephedrine Products in Vermont

The purchase of products that contain ephedrine and pseudoephedrine is now limited by state and federal law. These products include common items like over-the-counter cold medicines, weight loss and energy enhancing products.

Why were the laws passed?

Ephedrine and pseudoephedrine are used to make the dangerous drug methamphetamine. Products containing these ingredients can be found in supermarkets, pharmacies, health food, vitamin and convenience stores.

Federal law (The Combat Methamphetamine Act of 2005 effective April 8, 2006) and state law (VT Act Relating to Precursor Drugs of Methamphetamine, 18 V.S.A. § 4234b effective September 30, 2006,) limits the amount of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine products that can be purchased.

Possession of less than 9 grams with the intent to make methamphetamine may result in imprisonment for not more than 1 year and/or a \$2,000 fine. Possession of 9 grams or more with the intent to make methamphetamine may result in imprisonment for not more than 5 years and/or a fine of \$10,000.

Limiting the sales of these products is one of the most important things that can be done to limit methamphetamine production, which can take place in hidden "meth labs." Methamphetamine has devastated entire communities in many other states and Vermont is working to stay ahead of the problem.

How do I buy these products now?

The maximum amounts that can be purchased are:

- 3.6 grams during a 24-hour period
- 9 grams every 30 days

For an adult, 3.6 grams equals 1 box with 20 tablets of a 12-hour cold medication, or 3 boxes of 10 tablets. For a child, this would equal 20 bottles of 1 ounce infant 4-6 hour cold medicine.

These products must be displayed in a locked cabinet or behind-the-counter, and can be requested at a sales or pharmacy counter.

When purchasing you will need to:

- Present a state or federal photo ID and enter your name and address into a logbook.
- Sign the entry in the logbook for your purchase.
- Present a prescription from your health care provider only if you require more than the maximum daily or 30-day limit. You may need prescriptions if you are purchasing the products for family members that require several different dosages.

What is methamphetamine?

Methamphetamine is a dangerous and illegal drug that is highly addictive. The drug affects the central nervous system and changes the user's brain chemistry.

For more information about methamphetamine go to <http://healthvermont.gov> or dial 2-1-1 to reach Vermont 2-1-1, a statewide information and referral system (when calling from some cell phones you may need to dial toll-free 1-866-652-4636).



Vermont Grocers' Association

