

Figure 6.2a

Descriptive Indicators of a Clandestine Drug Laboratory

- Noxious odors associated with chemical/industrial use—ammonia, ether, solvents; strong or prolonged odor.
- Exhaust fans on house or outbuilding constantly running or running in cold weather.
- All windows darkened or covered.
- Windows sealed and/or painted.
- Abnormal use of electricity and water.
- High electric and/or water bills.
- Purchase of large quantities of chemicals from hardware and other stores such as:
 - Acetone in multi-gallon lots.
 - Sodium hydroxide products (e.g., “Drano”) by the case.
- Purchase of lab supplies or equipment.
- Purchase of key chemicals (ether, etc.) or glassware from or through local companies.
- Delivery frequently being made by parcel services of glassware, chemicals, etc.

Source: Pamphlet from ALERT Unit, New Jersey State Police, 1990; republished in *The Community Model*, Counterdrug Intelligence Coordinating Group, 2003.