



Every day, Clark Seif Clark professionals are deployed across the nation helping both large and small customers resolve health & safety, industrial hygiene, environmental and indoor air quality issues.

At a moment's notice, Clark Seif Clark can send their experts anywhere they are needed. No matter if it's in response to a hurricane, wildfire, flood, tornado, or other natural disaster, Clark Seif Clark is ready to help and can respond in no time at all.

## Understanding Categories of Water to Properly Remediate Damaged Structures

In June, a sewage problem at the Coliseum forced the Oakland Athletics and Seattle Mariners out of their locker rooms after sewage was reported to have flooded the facilities. Sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) like this happen every day and can cause extensive damage, costly remediation and create potential health hazards.

Water can enter a building in many ways. Local flooding, leaking roofs and broken plumbing are all potential water sources that can cause damage to belongings and possible structural damage. Depending on the circumstances and the type of water involved, it may also create potential indoor environmental and indoor air quality concerns.

"It's important for people to understand what type of water has entered a structure so that it can be properly remediated and appropriate measures can be taken to protect workers and building occupants from any potential hazards," reported Franco Seif, President of Clark Seif Clark. "Depending on the water source and possibly the length of time it remains in a building, it may contain bacteria, viruses, mold, chemicals, protozoa and even parasites."

There are three categories of water that are typically used when classifying a water damage or flooding event. They include:

### **In This Issue**

[Understanding Categories of Water to Properly Remediate Damaged Structures](#)

[Health Concerns due to Hidden Mold](#)



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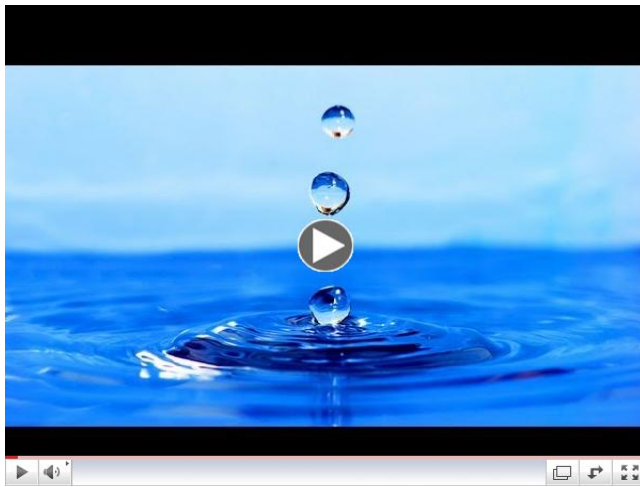
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[Energy Efficiency](#)

[Green Building](#)

- Category 1 Water, also known as Clean Water, does not typically result in an immediate health threat to building occupants. This type of water is considered clean at its point of release. Examples include broken water supply lines and the overflow of a sink or tub. Even in properties with this type of initial water damage, mold can begin to grow in as short as 24 hours. It may also become increasingly contaminated over time and as it interacts with materials in the property.
- Category 2 Water, also known as Grey Water, typically contains a significant amount of biological or physical contaminants that can cause sickness when humans are exposed or if it is accidentally consumed. Examples include water discharged from a dishwasher or washing machine. Category 2 Water, that is not promptly removed or has remained stagnant for some time, may at times be reclassified as Category 3 Water.
- Category 3 Water, also known as Black Water, is grossly contaminated. It may contain harmful pathogens, microbes and chemicals that could cause illness. Sources include sewage, seawater, rising water from rivers or streams, ground surface water or standing water.

Clark Seif Clark recently sponsored an online video about categories of water in flooded buildings that can be seen at:



Categories of Water in Water Damaged Buildings

To learn more about how CSC can help following a flood with indoor air quality (IAQ), mold and other environmental issues, please visit [www.csceng.com](http://www.csceng.com), email [csc@csceng.com](mailto:csc@csceng.com) or call (800) 807-1118.

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**Is It Safe?**

Health Concerns due to Hidden Mold

When someone walks into a home or building and notices a strong musty odor, this telltale clue may indicate there is microbial growth somewhere in the structure. The building may have visible mold growth, but many times the mold may be growing out of sight. In other circumstances, there may be little to no odor, but people are complaining of health issues following a known water damaging event.

When mold is growing out of sight, it can be a challenge to identify the source and cause of its growth. Mold can begin to grow indoors in as short as 24 to 48 hours after there has been a water damaging event or elevated levels of humidity.

Mold may be hidden in places such as behind dry wall, wallpaper and paneling, or it may be located above the top side of ceiling tiles or under carpets and carpet pads. Other possible locations of hidden mold include areas inside walls around pipes due to leaking or condensing pipes, the surface of walls behind furniture where condensation may form, inside ductwork, in roof materials above ceiling tiles caused by roof leaks or insufficient insulation and numerous other places throughout a structure.

When elevated levels of mold are found indoors they can cause allergies, trigger asthma attacks in sensitive individuals and even lead to infections in some people. Investigating hidden mold problems can be a challenge and requires caution when the investigation involves disturbing potential sites of mold growth because if done incorrectly, it can actually make a situation worse. People who think they may have a hidden mold problem should consider hiring an experienced professional who specializes in these types of investigations. CSC's experts have been providing these types of specialized investigations and consulting services for over 17 years.

Clark Seif Clark recently sponsored an online video about hidden mold in homes and buildings that can be seen at:



Hidden Mold in Homes & Buildings

To learn more about how CSC can help with indoor air quality, mold and other indoor environmental issues, please visit

[www.csceng.com](http://www.csceng.com), email [csc@csceng.com](mailto:csc@csceng.com) or call (800) 807-1118.

**About Clark Seif Clark:** CSC was established in 1989 to help clients in both the public and private sectors address environmental issues. CSC is a leading provider of these services with multiple offices along the western seaboard and southwest. The company believes in science-based protocols and has a strong background in engineering making them the preferred environmental consultants to healthcare facilities, architects, schools, builders, contractors, developers and real estate professionals.