



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.

## Mold Often Follows Water Damage from Burst Frozen Pipes

During the chilly months of January and February, pipes may freeze and burst in any type of building. Each year, this type of water damage results in billions of dollars in property damages.

With extreme cold weather, or if a structure is having problems with its heating system during the winter months, pipes are susceptible to freezing. As water freezes it expands and can put tremendous pressure on both metal and plastic pipes. If a pipe does break, many supply lines can easily release hundreds of gallons or more of water each day. This water will gradually make its way to the lowest area it can reach. This means a burst pipe on a second floor can cause water damage not only to that level of the property, but also to the floor below and the basement or crawl space.

Along with the destruction caused by broken pipes to building materials and furnishing, mold can also quickly begin to grow on wet and damp materials. The presence of mold can impact the indoor air quality (IAQ) for anyone in the home or building. It can cause everything from allergies and hypersensitivity pneumonitis (HP) to triggering asthma in those with the condition. Some types of mold are even known to cause infections in people with a weakened immune system.

### In This Issue

[Mold Often Follows Water Damage from Burst Frozen Pipes](#)

[Ways a Home's Ventilation Could Cause Indoor Air Quality Issues](#)



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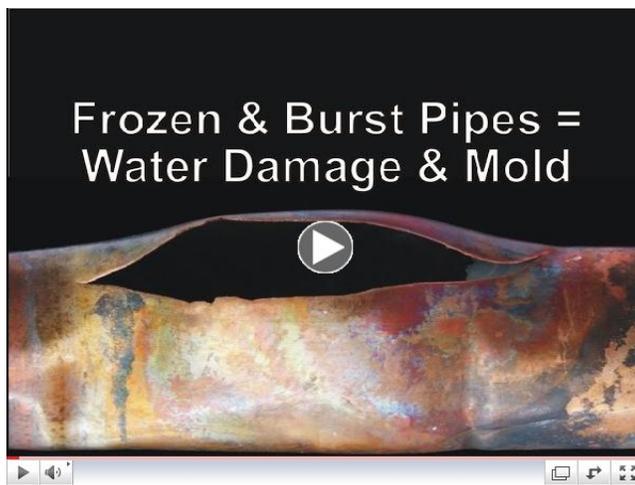
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"In addition to concerns over the presence of mold in a building that has suffered damage due to a burst pipe, many older properties still contain asbestos and lead-based paints that can be an issue for anyone in the area during cleanup and repair activities," said Franco Seif, President of Clark Seif Clark. "At CSC, we offer testing and consulting services to help residential and commercial buildings quickly and safely resolve any concerns following water damage due to burst pipes or any other type of water damaging event. These services help to ensure that both building occupants and those tasked with repairing water damage are not exposed to materials that could impact their health."

CSC recently sponsored an educational video about frozen pipes and how to prevent water damage and mold growth that can be seen at:



Frozen & Burst Pipes = Water Damage & Mold

To learn more about preventing water damage, 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.

## Ways a Home's Ventilation Could Cause Indoor Air Quality Issues

Americans spend up to 90% of their time indoors so the indoor air quality in their homes is a critical component of a healthy life. At times, indoor pollutants can accumulate to levels that can pose health and comfort issues, particularly when there is too little outdoor air entering a building. These pollutants may include mold, bacteria, tobacco smoke, volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and other chemicals, radon, allergens, elevated levels of carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide, and other substances.

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**Is It Safe?**

One common approach to lowering the concentration of indoor air pollutants is to increase the amount of outdoor air coming in. Outdoor air enters and leaves a home by infiltration, natural ventilation and mechanical ventilation.

When infiltration takes place, outdoor air flows into the house through openings, joints and cracks in walls, floors, ceilings, windows and doors. Air may also move out of the house in this manner and this is known as exfiltration. With natural ventilation, air moves through open windows and doors. Air movement associated with infiltration and natural ventilation is caused by air temperature differences between indoors and outdoors and by wind.

There are also a number of mechanical ventilation devices, from exhaust fans that remove air from a single room, to air handling systems that use fans and duct work to continuously remove indoor air and distribute filtered and conditioned outdoor air to strategic points throughout a building. The rate at which outdoor air replaces indoor air is described as the air exchange rate. When there is little infiltration, natural ventilation or mechanical ventilation, the air exchange rate is low and pollutant levels can rise.

It is not uncommon to find elevated pollutant levels in buildings that were designed and constructed to minimize the amount of outdoor air moving into and out of the structure, especially in energy efficient buildings. At CSC, our building science professionals are regularly called upon to investigate indoor air quality issues, and most of the time, a building's ventilation system plays a critical role in these investigations. By utilizing advanced instrumentation and decades of experience, our team can quickly diagnose and resolve both ventilation and IAQ issues.

CSC has sponsored an educational video about home ventilation and indoor air quality that can be seen at:



Home Ventilation & Indoor Air Quality

To learn more about ventilation, indoor air quality, environmental, health and safety testing services, 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.