



# Clark Seif Clark Environmental Newsletter

[www.csceng.com](http://www.csceng.com) 800.807.1118

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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.

## Indoor Air Quality & Energy Efficiency in Schools the Focus of New EPA Guidance

Last month, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released new guidance to help school districts protect indoor air quality (IAQ) while increasing energy efficiency during school renovations. Energy management and protecting indoor air quality are both important considerations for a school's facility management during energy upgrades and retrofits. Schools can protect student and faculty health by addressing these goals together.

Renovation and construction activities can create dust, introduce new contaminants and contaminant pathways, create or aggravate moisture problems, and result in inadequate ventilation in occupied spaces. These activities can expose students, teachers, faculty and workers to a number of potential pollutants, including: mold, bacteria, allergens, asbestos, lead, radon, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), PCBs and other pollutants. The EPA's Energy Savings Plus Health: Indoor Air Quality Guidelines for School Building Upgrades offers opportunities to prevent and control potentially harmful conditions during school renovations.

"Almost 55 million students and 7 million teachers and faculty are in our schools according to the EPA," said Franco Seif, President of Clark Seif Clark. "This new guidance document supports schools as healthy, energy-efficient buildings that play a significant role in local communities. These are the same initiatives we have at Clark

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Seif Clark when our experts are called upon by schools across the country to identify and resolve IAQ issues."

CSC's building science professionals have the tools and expertise to identify a wide range of indoor pollutants and potential hazards while offering solutions to remedy any problems that are found. These services take into account a school's need to improve energy efficiency as part of the solution.

A video that discusses IAQ in schools was recently sponsored by CSC and can be seen at:



Back to School IAQ Checklist

To learn more about indoor air quality and environmental testing services in schools or other buildings, please visit [www.csceng.com](http://www.csceng.com), email [csc@csceng.com](mailto:csc@csceng.com) or call (800) 807-1118.

## Property Managers Turn to CSC to Resolve Mold and IAQ Issues

According to some estimates, there are approximately 30 million apartment units in the United States. These units are managed by landlords and professional management companies and range from low income apartments to luxury living accommodations.

As is the case with virtually any type of building, water damage and elevated humidity levels can result in the growth of mold in apartment complexes. The presence of mold can cause a wide range of health concerns from triggering asthma and causing allergies to hypersensitivity pneumonitis (HP), infections and exposing people to toxins known as mycotoxins.

Since mold occurs naturally in the environment, they can enter an apartment from the outside through open doorways and windows as

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**Is It Safe?**

well as through the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system's outdoor air intakes. Spores can even attach themselves to people, making clothing, shoes, bags, and even pets all vehicles for transporting mold into an apartment.

If mold spores land on surfaces where there is moisture, such as where leaks may have occurred in roofs, pipes, walls, or where there has been flooding or excessive humidity, they can begin to grow in as short as 24 to 48 hours. Many apartment building materials and tenant furnishings and belongings provide suitable nutrients that encourage mold to grow when moisture is present. Wet cellulose materials, including paper and paper products, cardboard, ceiling tiles, wood, and wood products, are particularly conducive for the growth of some types of mold. Other materials such as dust, paint, wallpaper, insulation, drywall, carpet, fabric, and upholstery, also commonly support mold growth. Mold may even be on or in many building materials before they were ever even used to construct the apartment complex.

To prevent mold issues in apartments, it is imperative that property managers deal with any moisture issues in a timely and effective manner. Sometimes property managers may not be aware that a tenant has had a water damaging event in their unit and this can quickly escalate a minor event into a mold and indoor air quality problem. CSC's environmental and building science professionals provide testing and consulting services for property managers of residential and commercial buildings across the country. These services allow existing and potential problems to be quickly identified so that corrective actions can be put in place to provide superior indoor environmental quality for all building occupants.

CSC recently sponsored a video about apartments, mold and indoor air quality that can be seen at:



Apartments, Mold & Indoor Air Quality

To learn more about mold and other indoor air quality, industrial

hygiene, health and safety 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.