



Clark Seif Clark Environmental Newsletter

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.

UPDATE: Clark Seif Clark's Arizona office has moved to its new address in Chandler. The new location provides room to grow as the office continues to expand to serve clients. The phone number remains the same, but the new address is 7302 W. Chicago St., Chandler, AZ 85226.

Fall Property Maintenance Tips to Help Avoid Common Indoor Environmental Quality Issues

With the fall season in full swing, now is an ideal time to check the condition of a home or commercial property and perform some preventive maintenance tasks. Taking steps now can help to ensure a property is in good condition to provide a safe and comfortable place for building occupants before cooler winter weather arrives.

"Preventive maintenance and inspecting a property can in many circumstances help to prevent costly repairs and may even increase the building's energy efficiency," said Franco Seif, President of Clark Seif Clark. "Equally important, some of these tasks could help prevent indoor environmental issues associated with carbon monoxide, mold and moisture, water intrusion, and other potential indoor and safety issues."

The building science professionals at Clark Seif Clark provide the following recommendations for preparing a property for the fall and

In This Issue

[Fall Property Maintenance Tips to Help Avoid Common Indoor Environmental Quality Issues](#)

[Wind Damage - A Common Cause of Moisture and Mold in Residential & Commercial Properties](#)



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[Site Assessments](#)

[Energy Efficiency](#)

upcoming winter:

- Remove leaves and obstructions from gutters and downspouts to prevent ice dams this winter and ensure that all water is draining away from the building.
- Properties with chimneys should have them inspected each year and cleaned if necessary.
- Check siding for any damage or areas that moisture could enter.
- Inspect for any damage to the roof and be sure skylights are properly sealed.
- Check windows and doors for drafts and replace any worn weather stripping.
- Add insulation to exposed pipes.
- Check smoke detectors and carbon monoxide sensors and change out the batteries.
- Change filters for the HVAC system and consider having the furnace checked by a qualified professional. Also inspect the air ducts for the buildup of dust and debris.
- Trim trees that could cause damage to the property with broken limbs.
- Consider having any asphalt driveways or parking lots sealed.
- Clean and cover outdoor air conditioning components.
- In places with freezing weather, don't forget to shut off and drain any exterior sprinkler systems. Also check outdoor faucets for leaks.
- When cold weather arrives and the property is sealed, consider having it checked for the presence of radon.

The professionals at Clark Seif Clark provide comprehensive indoor environmental quality audits and testing services to identify and resolve a wide range of issues in all types of buildings. They also recently sponsored an educational video with fall maintenance tips that can be seen here:



To learn more about this or other indoor air quality, occupational, environmental, health and safety testing services, please visit

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Is It Safe?

Wind Damage - A Common Cause of Moisture and Mold in Residential & Commercial Properties

Each year, wind damage caused by thunderstorms, microbursts, tornadoes and hurricanes results in billions of dollars in property damage. While it is true that certain regions of the country are more susceptible to high velocity winds than others areas, they can and do occur virtually everywhere.

Powerful winds are known to cause everything from cosmetic or structural damage to a property's complete destruction in extreme circumstances. Even seemingly minor wind damage can result in conditions that allow water to be able to penetrate a building's envelop and cause damage to building materials and belongings. If not quickly addressed, this moisture can result in the growth of mold in less than 48 hours in many circumstances.

In older properties, issues associated with mold and moisture from wind damage are not the only potential indoor environmental exposure concerns. The possible presence of lead-based paints and asbestos-containing materials that are disturbed by the actual damage or during cleanup, demolition and rebuilding activities, can also create exposure risks.

The building science professionals at Clark Seif Clark recommend the following steps for property managers and owners to help prevent damage due to strong winds. They include:

- Check shingles or roof tiles to make sure they are properly fastened and meet or exceed local building codes.
- Be sure roof sheathing is properly nailed down and that the connections between the roof and walls will not allow updrafts to damage the roof.
- Check chimneys, sky lights and roof exhaust pipes to ensure they are sealed and properly secured.
- The building's exterior, siding and windows should be sealed and properly secured to prevent wind damage and wind-driven rain from reaching the interior.
- Ensure any rooftop HVAC units are properly secured.
- Be sure exterior doors are hinged or braced properly and can withstand strong winds.
- Trim back trees to prevent damage from broken limbs or uprooted trees.
- Be sure anything stored outdoors and any outbuildings are properly secured and that fencing is well braced.

- For commercial properties, check to make sure signage is properly designed, anchored and secured.

If a property does suffer wind damage, be sure to also look for signs of hidden damage that might otherwise go unnoticed. Clark Seif Clark's building science and indoor environmental quality experts are available to assist in these situations. They help identify water damage and provide comprehensive testing services for mold, lead, asbestos and many other indoor environmental pollutants. These services not only help to protect building occupants, but they can also be vital for identifying issues that need to be addressed in an insurance claim.

Clark Seif Clark recently sponsored an educational video about wind damage, moisture and mold that can be seen here:



To learn more about this or other property damage, indoor air quality, occupational, environmental, health and safety testing services, please visit www.csceng.com , email 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.