



# Clark Seif Clark Environmental Newsletter

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Clark Seif Clark is pleased to bring environmental, health & safety and information about building sciences to thousands of professionals each month. We hope you enjoy the newsletter.

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## Toxic Soil Leads to California Lawsuit

This summer it was reported in the *Marin Independent Journal* that former business owners of a retail store filed a lawsuit against their past landlords in Fairfax, California. The suit alleges that the property owners knew of improperly disposed of perchloroethylene at the shopping center. The chemical was reportedly the result of another tenant that had operated a dry cleaning business that generated the toxic waste.



Vapor Intrusion Dangers

The chemical began producing a noticeable odor that resulted in the plaintiff's hiring professionals to identify the source of the mystery odors. Perchloroethylene (PERC), a colorless and nonflammable liquid, was discovered. The largest traditional user of PERC in the U.S. is the dry cleaning industry.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), "Exposure to perchloroethylene (PERC) can occur in the workplace or in the environment following releases to air, water, land, or groundwater." PERC contamination can also result in vapor intrusion. Vapor intrusion occurs when volatile chemicals emit vapors that migrate through subsurface soils and into indoor air spaces of buildings in ways similar to that of radon gas seeping into homes.

"Perchloroethylene is on California's Proposition 65 list of



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carcinogenic chemicals," reported David Broadbent, Technical Director of CSC Targhee, Inc., a Clark Seif Clark (CSC) subsidiary. "Proposition 65 requires businesses to notify Californians about significant amounts of chemicals in the products they purchase, in their homes or workplaces, or that are released into the environment. Environmental testing can identify its presence and prevent potentially dangerous exposure to this chemical."

CSC has sponsored an online video to help educate the public about potential hazards that can occur due to vapor intrusion. It can be seen here:



Vapor Intrusion

To learn more about how Clark Seif Clark can help with PERC, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), indoor air quality (IAQ), and health and safety projects, please visit [www.csceng.com](http://www.csceng.com), email [csc@csceng.com](mailto:csc@csceng.com) or call (800) 807-1118.

## Fungal Diseases Spread by Birds

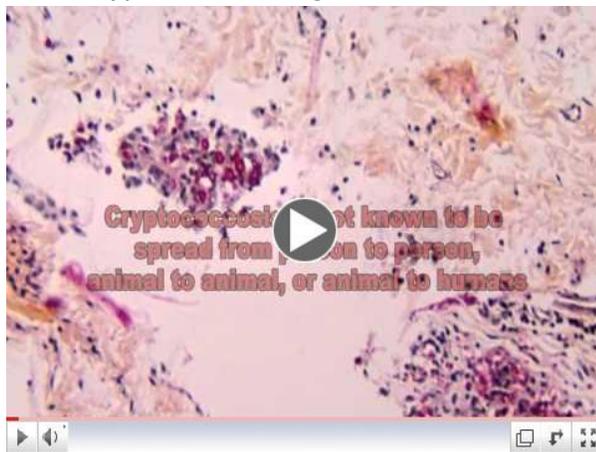
Cryptococcosis is a potentially deadly disease caused by *Cryptococcus* fungi. The major species of *Cryptococcus* that causes illness in humans is *Cryptococcus neoformans*, which is found worldwide. Since 1999, *C. gattii*, which can also cause infections, has also been found in regions of the Pacific Northwest.

*C. neoformans* typically infects immune-compromised persons. Most people in the United States who develop this infection are HIV-infected or have other conditions impacting their immune system. However, occasionally persons with no apparent immune system problems develop cryptococcosis. A wide range of animals can also develop *C. neoformans* cryptococcosis.

The spores from *C. neoformans* live in bird droppings, especially pigeon droppings, and in soil contaminated with bird droppings. Humans can get cryptococcal infections by the inhalation of airborne fungi which are spread from these sources. Cryptococcosis is not known to be spread from person to person, animal to animal, or from animals to humans.

"It's important that bird droppings not be allowed to accumulate in or around buildings where people live or work. Birds often roost on roofs near air intakes or in attics and deposit waste, nests and carcasses. These accumulations result in an increased risk of people developing cryptococcosis and an increased risk of structural failure," reported Derrick A. Denis, V.P. of Indoor Environmental Quality at Clark Seif Clark, a leading provider of indoor air quality (IAQ) and environmental testing services. "Workers cleaning nuisance bird debris should be trained and protected. Environmental testing can determine if the pathogenic fungi are present to help prevent outbreaks."

CSC has sponsored an educational video about the risks associated with *Cryptococcus* fungi that can be seen below:



Cryptococcus Fungi: The Cause of Cryptococcosis

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**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.