



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, flood, tornado, or other natural disaster, Clark Seif Clark is ready to help and can respond in no time at all.

## Could Something in Your House Dust be Triggering Allergies or Worse?

Most people have experienced sneezing, a running nose or itchy eyes while cleaning activities are going on in their home or office. These conditions are often caused by exposure to airborne dusts that are often times full of allergens. Exposure to this same dust can even trigger asthma symptoms in some people.

Franco Seif, President of Clark Seif Clark (CSC), an indoor air quality (IAQ) and environmental consulting firm shared his thoughts about indoor allergens and dust. He reported, "House dust can contain a number of different allergens. These aeroallergens can even interact with other harmful air pollution to worsen various respiratory diseases in some people. In addition to allergens, house dust in some circumstances may also include lead, primarily from deteriorating lead-based paints in older homes, and even asbestos fibers in some older properties."

Mr. Seif listed the following common indoor allergens found in house dusts:

- Dust mites are tiny bugs that feed on human skin flakes and are found in mattresses, pillows, carpets, upholstered furniture, and fabric and fabric-covered items. They are one of the most common causes of allergies from house dust.
- Cockroaches and their droppings can trigger allergies and even asthma attacks.

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- Pollen is an allergen that can aggravate allergic rhinitis and several respiratory diseases, including asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.
- Pet dander allergens are common and both furry pets and pets with feathers can cause an allergic reaction in some people.
- Fungi, commonly called mold, produce tiny spores that can be found in both indoor and outdoor air. It can cause allergies, trigger asthma attacks, and in some cases lead to infections in susceptible individuals.
- Even people wearing latex gloves during dust cleaning activities could be exposing themselves to latex allergens.

CSC recently sponsored an educational video about house dust allergens and IAQ that can be seen here:



### House Dust Allergens & Indoor Air Quality

To learn more about testing for indoor allergens, mold or other indoor air quality issues, please visit Clark Seif Clark at [www.csceng.com](http://www.csceng.com), email [csc@csceng.com](mailto:csc@csceng.com) or call (800) 807-1118.

## Exposure to Metalworking Fluids & Microbial Health Hazards

Over one million workers in the United States work in machine finishing, machine tooling, and other metalworking and metal-forming operations. Many of these workers could potentially be

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exposed to microbial hazards in metalworking fluids (MWFs).

MWFs are used to reduce heat and friction and to remove metal particles in a number of industrial machining and grinding operations. There are numerous MWF formulations, including water-based metalworking fluids. Water-based metalworking fluids can support microbial growth, which could introduce biological contaminants into a worker's environment.

If these fluids are not properly maintained or changed frequently, contaminants may become established and grow exponentially. Contaminants may include bacterial and fungal cells or cell components and their related biological byproducts such as endotoxins, exotoxins, and mycotoxins.

One of the most commonly isolated types of bacteria from MWFs is *Pseudomonas*. Other types of bacteria that have been identified include the following, among others:

- *Klebsiella pneumoniae*
- *Staphylococcus aureus*
- *E. coli*
- *Enterobacter*
- *Citrobacter*
- *Achromobacter*
- *Proteus vulgaris*

Fungal contamination is also a concern and may include the following among others:

- *Penicillium*
- *Aspergillus*
- *Fusarium*

Workers can be exposed by breathing bioaerosols generated in the machining process, or through skin contact when they handle parts, tools, and equipment covered with these fluids. Occupational testing can identify and prevent situations that could otherwise put workers at risk.

CSC recently sponsored an educational video about MWFs and microbial hazards that can be seen here:



## Metalworking Fluids & Microbial Hazards

To learn more about testing for MWFs or other industrial hygiene and indoor air quality concerns, please visit Clark Seif Clark at [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.