



# Clark Seif Clark Environmental Newsletter

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

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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.

## Winter Season Creates Indoor Environmental Concerns for Many

During January and February, many parts of the country experience their coldest temperatures of the year. Even in places many think of as hot deserts, such as Phoenix and Palm Springs, temperatures can reach freezing temperatures at night.

Cold weather results in people using furnaces and sealing up their homes, offices and schools to keep out drafts. During the winter, and in places with cold weather climates much of the year, there are indoor environmental issues that can cause health and safety concerns for building occupants.

It's during this time of year when many people may begin to experience unique health issues related to their indoor environment. Some building occupants may complain of dry indoor air, stuffy rooms, and odors. Others may experience more frequent allergies and even asthma attacks. Many times, these conditions and complaints are due to the building's indoor air quality.

"During cold weather, many buildings may experience a lack of ventilation and fresh air," reported Franco Seif, President of Clark Seif Clark (CSC), one of the nation's premier providers of indoor air quality consulting services. "This can cause levels of carbon dioxide and other indoor pollutants to begin to build up. The building's HVAC system, which may not have been in use in weeks or months, may have accumulated dust and debris. Furnaces may be in need of repairs or have faulty boilers that could be releasing carbon monoxide into the indoor environment. Another area of concern involves indoor pollutants that can range from mold, pollen from indoor plants, pet dander, and even volatile organic compounds (VOCs) emitted from building materials and furnishing or chemicals stored indoors. CSC has the experience and expertise to identify and help resolve these IAQ issues."

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CSC recently sponsored an online video about cold climates and indoor environmental concerns that can be seen here:



### Cold Climates & Indoor Environmental Concerns

To learn more about indoor environmental services or other 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.

## Home Renovations & Remodeling Projects May Expose People to Lead

Back in 1991, the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services called lead the "number one environmental threat to the health of children in the United States." Several decades later, lead continues to be a public health threat.

Lead has long been recognized as a harmful environmental pollutant and there are many ways people can be exposed to the material. Routes of exposure may occur through contaminated air, drinking water, food, soil, deteriorating lead-based paints, and dusts.

One of the most significant sources of lead exposure is caused by lead-based paints. Many older properties, built all the way up to the late 1970s, may contain lead-based paints. Before its ban, it was commonly found in both interior and exterior paints.

Not only can lead-based paints deteriorate over time leading to possible harmful conditions, but home renovation and remodeling activities in older homes can also create possible exposure to lead. Harmful exposure to lead can be created when lead-based paint is

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**Is It Safe?**

improperly removed from surfaces by dry scraping, sanding, or open-flame burning.

Homeowners can reduce the risk of lead exposure by hiring a certified lead inspector from Clark Seif Clark. Clark Seif Clark also helps firms comply with the EPA's Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP) Rule and the Toxic Substances Act.

CSC recently sponsored an educational video about potential lead hazards people may face when tackling home renovation and remodeling activities. It can be seen here:



Leads Hazards During Home Renovations & Remodeling

To learn more about testing for lead or other 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.