



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.

Protecting Workers and the Public from Solvent Exposure Hazards

Millions of workers in the United States are exposed to solvents on a daily basis according to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). The agency also reports solvents share many chemical, physical and biological properties that warrant national attention be directed to them as a group.

Solvents, as described by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), are substances capable of dissolving or dispersing one or more other substances. While most solvents come in liquid form, they can also be used as a gas in some applications. Organic solvents can generally be classified into three main types: oxygenated solvents, hydrocarbon solvents and halogenated solvents.

These chemical compounds can be found in many residential environments and workplaces. In the home, people can be exposed to solvents when using cleaning products, personal care products, nail polish remover, paints, glues, adhesives and various other household products.

At work, employees can be exposed to solvents if their work involves dip cleaning, vapor degreasing, manufacturing that uses glues and adhesives, paint stripping, fueling, transferring flammable liquids, painting, offset printing, dry cleaning, installing carpets, and

In This Issue

[Protecting Workers and the Public from Solvent Exposure Hazards](#)

[Dirty Air Ducts and Indoor Air Quality Issues for Building Occupants](#)



Clark Seif Clark
(CSC)

csc@csceng.com
800.807.1118

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[Indoor Air Quality](#)

[Workplace Health & Safety](#)

[Site Assessments](#)

[Energy Efficiency](#)

[Green Building](#)

cleaning electronics, automotive parts, and circuit boards. Workers may also be exposed if they are involved with manufacturing soap, printed circuit boards, semiconductors, personal care products, pharmaceuticals or textiles among other occupations.

"While people can be exposed to solvents through skin contact or ingestion, a common route of exposure is due to inhalation," said Derrick A. Denis, V.P. of Indoor Environmental Quality (IEQ) at Clark Seif Clark (CSC). "There are a myriad of potential health issues associated with exposure to solvents. OSHA lists toxicity to the nervous system, reproductive damage, liver and kidney damage, respiratory impairment, cancer and dermatitis to name a few."

Clark Seif Clark offers testing, monitoring and consulting services to identify and mitigate potential exposure hazards to solvents and a wide range of other chemical compounds. These services protect workers and communities while helping to keep companies in compliance with health and safety regulations. CSC also recently sponsored an educational video about solvents that can be seen here:



To learn more about this or other occupational, environmental, indoor air quality, health and safety testing services, please visit www.csceng.com, email csc@csceng.com or call (800) 807-1118.

Dirty Air Ducts and Indoor Air Quality Issues for Building Occupants

Air ducts are a critical component of a building's HVAC system. They deliver ventilation and a path for warm or cool air to provide a pleasant indoor environment for building occupants in homes, schools and commercial buildings.

If air ducts become dirty and contaminated, they not only won't operate efficiently and could be causing indoor air quality (IAQ) concerns. This increases energy costs and could very likely lead to respiratory issues for people living or working in the building.

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Is It Safe?

To help prevent air ducts contamination, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provides a number of tips. They include the following:

- Change filters regularly.
- Use the highest efficiency air filter recommended by the manufacturer of the heating and cooling system.
- Be sure there are no missing filters and that air cannot bypass filters through gaps around the filter holder.
- When having the heating and cooling system maintained or checked for other reasons, be sure to ask the service provider to clean cooling coils and drain pans.
- During construction or renovation work that produces dust indoors, seal off supply and return registers, and do not operate the heating and cooling system until after cleaning up the dust.

To prevent ducts from becoming wet and supporting microbial growth, the EPA recommends:

- Promptly and properly repair any leaks or water damage.
- Pay particular attention to cooling coils, which are designed to remove water from the air and can be a major source of moisture contamination of the system that can lead to mold growth. Also make sure the condensate pan drains properly.
- Make sure ducts are properly sealed and insulated in all non-air-conditioned spaces.
- If replacing an air conditioning system, be sure that the unit is the proper size and that all ducts are sealed at the joints.

Not only can air ducts be a source of IAQ problems, but also, they can act as both active and passive distribution systems spreading unwanted particles and gasses from impacted parts of the structure into unaffected areas.

CSC recently sponsored a video with tips to prevent air duct contamination that can be seen here:



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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.