



Clark Seif Clark Environmental Newsletter

www.csceng.com 800.807.1118

May 2011



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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Mold in Schools can Make Children Sick

Last year the *Los Angeles Times* published an article entitled "Toxic schools: Could mold be the reason your child is sick?" The paper discussed the story of a six year old boy who had experienced breathing problems, headaches, vomiting and other health concerns. Once the mother of the boy discovered the child's school was being treated for mold she moved him to another school and "his health problems vanished."



Stachybotrys chartarum

Many school districts have witnessed their maintenance budgets slashed as state and local budgets get squeezed due to the struggling economy. The resulting postponement or elimination of preventative maintenance (PM) and capital projects turns avoidable or minor IAQ issues into major problems.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), "Poor indoor air quality (IAQ) can cause illness requiring absence from school, and can cause acute health symptoms that decrease performance while at school. In addition, recent data suggest that poor IAQ can reduce a person's ability to perform specific mental tasks requiring concentration, calculation, or memory."

Clark Seif Clark, a leading provider of IEQ testing services, has



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extensive experience working with schools. "The goal is to prevent water incursion wherever possible and to aggressively address leaks if they occur. Water incidents from roofs, HVAC, plumbing, etc. become more frequent and more severe when budget cuts reduce preventative maintenance. Deferred maintenance can exacerbate IAQ issues." reported Derrick A. Denis, V.P. Indoor Environmental Quality at CSC. "When building materials become and remain wet for a long period of time, typically 24 to 48 hours or more, structural damage (i.e. swelling, rust, staining, etc.) and microbial damage (such as visible mold growth, bacterial growth, etc.) are among the consequences. Humans are always exposed to molds with relatively few effects. But, when mold is allowed to grow indoors, the elevated airborne mold concentration could affect the health of the occupants. The potential health effects associated with mold exposure can be of particular concern to a limited number of a susceptible population, such as school children."

CSC has supported a public outreach video on IAQ and student performance that can be see here:

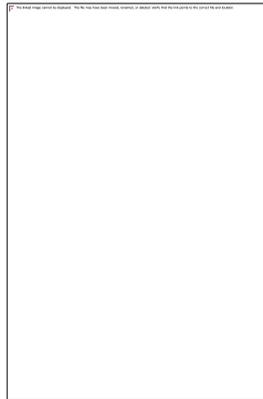


IAQ & Student Performance.wmv

To learn more about how CSC can help with indoor air quality, mold and other environmental issues please visit www.csceng.com, email csc@csceng.com or call (800) 807-1118.

Hair Salons may Expose Workers and Customers to Dangerous Levels of Formaldehyde

Last year the Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Division (Oregon OSHA) cautioned salons using hair-smoothing products about health risks from formaldehyde exposure. Two public health alerts have also been issued by the Oregon Health & Science University's Center for Research on Occupational and Environmental Toxicology (CROET) about possible negative health impacts from hair straightening products.



Formaldehyde
Dangers

According to a recent CROET release, "The product being tested is called Brazilian Blowout. Upon receiving two samples from Portland area salons, CROET asked the Department of Consumer and Business Services' Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division to chemically analyze the products. The results of Oregon OSHA's testing showed that the two different formulations of the product contained between 4.85% and 10.6% formaldehyde. In addition, the second sample, which came from a bottle labeled "formaldehyde free", was tested using four different methods." The tests revealed the product contained between 6.3% and 10.6% formaldehyde. Oregon OSHA is advising salons using these hair-smoothing treatments to take necessary precautions outlined in Oregon OSHA's formaldehyde rule.

Formaldehyde is widely used in many consumer products and common building materials. The World Health Organization's (WHO) International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has classified formaldehyde as a *potential human carcinogen*.

The Brazilian Blowout is just one example of numerous available products containing known hazards that are incorrectly labeled. Without the correct information, consumers and professionals are unable to formulate fact-based risk management decisions. Formaldehyde causes short-term irritation to mucosal membranes including the eyes, nose and throat. Skin exposure and inhalation exposure over extended durations and/or at high concentrations can result in increased risk of cancer. Both workers and customers need to be protected from unnecessary exposure. Workplace safety programs should consider options such as product evaluation, education (i.e. hazard communication), engineering controls (i.e. ventilation), personal protective equipment (i.e. gloves) and periodic exposure monitoring.

CSC has supported a public outreach on formaldehyde that can be seen at:



Formaldehyde - Dangers to Your Indoor Air Quality.wmv

To learn more about formaldehyde or how CSC can help assess and manage worker exposure to formaldehyde and other environmental issues, 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.