



Clark Seif Clark Environmental Newsletter

www.csceng.com 800.807.1118

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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.

Pathogens, Antimicrobial Resistance and the Importance of Surface Disinfection in Healthcare Environments

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR), as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is the ability of microbes to resist the effects of drugs - that is, the germs are not killed and their growth is not stopped. These pathogens can be found in the environment in the air, water, soil and on surfaces, as well as in or on people and animals.

All types of microbes have the ability to potentially develop resistance to the drugs created to destroy them, becoming drug-resistant organisms. Although antimicrobial resistance through genetic changes can occur naturally over time, the World Health Organization (WHO) reports that the misuse and overuse of antimicrobials is accelerating this process. Just a few years ago, the agency reported that antimicrobial resistance is an increasingly serious threat to global public health that requires action across all government sectors and society. It also proclaimed that antimicrobial resistance threatens the effective prevention and treatment of an ever-increasing range of infections caused by bacteria, parasites, viruses and fungi.

"In the United States alone, the CDC reports that at least 2 million people become infected with bacteria that are resistant to

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antibiotics," said Franco Seif, President at Clark Seif Clark (CSC). "At least 23,000 people die annually as a direct result of these infections. This CDC number doesn't include deaths due to antimicrobial resistant viruses, fungi and parasites. This is why detecting the presence of environmental pathogens, especially those with antimicrobial resistance, in healthcare settings and other sensitive environments is a major concern."

To help in these efforts, CSC offers testing and consulting services to identify environmental pathogens in hospitals, long-term care facilities, and other institutional and commercial environments. These services can help prevent the outbreak of disease and are instrumental in confirming the effectiveness of cleaning and disinfection procedures in these facilities.

Clark Seif Clark also recently sponsored an educational video about antimicrobial resistance and environmental pathogens that can be seen here:



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

Lead Disclosure for Homebuyers and Identifying Poisoning Hazards

To protect families from exposure to lead from paint, dust and soil, the U.S. Congress passed the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992. Also known as Title X, it directed the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to require the disclosure of known information on lead-based paint and lead-based paint hazards before the sale or lease of most housing built before 1978. That was the year when the federal government banned consumer uses of

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Is It Safe?

paints containing lead.

Several years after the passage of Title X, HUD and EPA released a fact sheet detailing the new disclosure requirements in which the agencies reported, "Approximately three-quarters of the nation's housing stock built before 1978 (approximately 64 million dwellings) contains some lead-based paint." Due to these lead exposure hazards and the passage of Title X, homebuyers today have important rights when it comes to knowing whether lead is present in a residence they may purchase.

Federal law currently requires that before being obligated under a contract to buy housing built prior to 1978, buyers must receive the following from the home seller:

- An EPA-approved information pamphlet on identifying and controlling lead-based paint hazards titled *Protect Your Family from Lead in Your Home*.
- Any known information concerning the presence of lead-based paint or lead-based paint hazards in the home or building.
 - For multi-unit buildings, this requirement includes records and reports concerning common areas and other units when such information was obtained as a result of a building-wide evaluation.
- An attachment to the contract, or language inserted in the contract, that includes a "Lead Warning Statement" and confirms that the seller has complied with all notification requirements.
- A 10-day period to conduct a paint inspection or risk assessment for lead-based paint or lead-based paint hazards. Parties may mutually agree, in writing, to lengthen or shorten the time period for inspection. Homebuyers may waive this inspection opportunity.

This type of disclosure for property buyers is critical since lead poisoning can cause permanent damage to the brain and many other organs. To identify lead hazards and to help keep individuals and companies in compliance with current disclosure regulations, Clark Seif Clark (CSC) has teams of certified professionals available to evaluate homes and other buildings for the presence of lead-based paint and to perform lead risk assessments.

CSC also recently sponsored an educational video about lead disclosures for homebuyers that can be seen here:

**FOR
SALE**

Homebuyers & Lead Disclosure



To learn more about lead or other environmental, building science, occupational, indoor air quality (IAQ), health and safety services, 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.