

## **Pest Control and Public Health.**

In recent years we have heard of the rise in asthma in children. Some authorities have attributed the increase to air quality. This is interesting, since the air is cleaner than it has been since the first lump of coal was burned. Does that mean clean air causes asthma?

It is true that the rate of asthma has apparently increased, but what are the demographics of the most affected population? Most of the increase has occurred in inner city populations whose homes have been seriously impacted by cockroaches. Why is this so important? Cockroach feces is suspected of being the major factor in the upsurge of childhood asthma. Even when cockroaches have been eliminated and homes are thoroughly cleaned, there are still sufficient allergens present to cause disease according to researchers at John Hopkins University. Clearly the answer is not controlling these pests after they have invaded. Preventing infestation in the first place is the answer.

According to the Ohio Pest Control Association cockroaches thrive in warm wet areas. The numerical dynamics of cockroaches is shocking. It has been estimated that if a property has 1000 cockroaches and 90% are killed, leaving 100 including 50 adult females, under ideal conditions the cockroach population may reach 1010 in 30 days.

German cockroaches can infest homes in extremely large numbers, and they are capable of carrying a number of pathogens on their bodies. Their job in the natural world is to clean up the environment. They do that by feeding on every sort of filth there is. This means they live in and around filth and are capable of spreading the pathogens breeding there.

As those who have tried to treat the problem know, cockroach infestation is not a situation homeowners can usually deal with on their own. With summer's hot humid days it is important to address this problem with professional help. New tools that are effective at preventing cockroach infestation as well as eliminating an existing problem are available to the professional pest control industry.

The safest and most effective solution to a serious pest problem is the services of an experienced, licensed pest management professional. To locate a qualified pest control operator in your area contact the Ohio Pest Control Association at 937-222-1024, visit the OPCA web site at [www.ohiopca.com](http://www.ohiopca.com), or send e-mail to [info@ohiopca.com](mailto:info@ohiopca.com)

The Ohio Pest Control Association is the only trade association dedicated solely to the pest control industry in the state of Ohio. With approximately 200 member companies in communities throughout the state, OPCA is The Voice of the Pest Control Industry in Ohio.