

PIKE SYSTEMS, INC.

NEWSLETTER

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A “clean vacuuming” strategy can help schools reduce asthma triggers by removing (rather than redistributing) the dust in a building by vacuuming surfaces with an efficiently filtered vacuum cleaner.

ProTeam. Vacuuming and Cleaner
Indoor Air for Schools. 09/06



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Asthma in the School Environment

In a classroom of 30 children, two are likely to have asthma according to a study conducted in 2002 by Akinbami and Schoendorf entitled *Trends in Childhood Asthma: Prevalence, Healthcare Utilization, and Mortality*. Though this equates to only 6% of the student population, it has resulted in 14 million missed school days per year according to the American Lung Association. Asthma affects roughly 6.2 million children under the age of 18 and is the third leading cause of hospitalization among children under the age of 15. If each missed school day cost a school district \$30.00 in additional funding, US school districts are missing out on \$428 million in educational funding each year.

If we, as an industry, can make a commitment to utilize cleaning tools that improve the indoor air quality in the built environment and by way of this pledge can reduce absenteeism due to asthma by 25%, school districts in the United States would have the opportunity to receive \$107 million in additional funding due to reduced asthma related absenteeism.

Schools nationwide are responding to these asthma statistics in an effort to improve student absenteeism. Here are a couple questions to ask yourselves regarding the health of your indoor environment: Does your facility maintain good indoor air quality? Do your cleaning processes reduce or eliminate allergens and irritants that can make asthma worse? For advice on improving the indoor air quality in your facility, contact Pike Systems.

About Pike Systems, Inc.

In today's business environment, every facility is being faced with cleanliness challenges. Just having the right chemicals and equipment isn't enough. It's knowing how to integrate chemicals, equipment, and people to your individual facility and knowing how to train your staff to do it the right way. Pike Systems, Inc. can help you with this process. The following are some of our recommendations to help you reduce the overall costs of your Custodial Budget. As a Pike Systems customer, you will receive the following value-added services:

- ◆ Working with a supplier who will do more than deliver product to your door.
- ◆ Reduction in the number of chemicals and supplies used.
- ◆ Installation of proportioning systems that provide safe, consistent use of chemicals and control chemical usage.
- ◆ Standardization of procedures so all staff members are working in the most efficient, effective manner as true industry professionals.
- ◆ Establishment of an ongoing training program for your staff.

Making these types of improvements will not happen with conventional distributors. It takes a company like Pike Systems, whose focus is on the customer and the customer's individual needs, to make it happen.

General Disinfectant Lingo

What is the difference between disinfectants, sanitizers, and sterilants?

- ◆ **Disinfectant**—kills all bacteria on environmental surfaces
- ◆ **Sanitizer**—reduces bacteria on environmental surfaces to a level that is considered safe by public health organizations.
- ◆ **Sterilant**—kills all bacteria and spores on environmental surfaces.

What is the difference between a limited disinfectant, a general disinfectant, and a hospital disinfectant?

- ◆ **Limited Disinfectant**—must be supported by efficacy testing against either *Salmonella cholerasuis* or *Staphylococcus aureus*
- ◆ **General Disinfectant**—must be supported by efficacy testing against both *salmonella cholerasuis* and *Staphylococcus aureus*
- ◆ **Hospital Disinfectant**—must be supported by AOAC Use Dilution or AOAC Germicidal Spray efficacy testing against *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Salmonella cholerasuis*

Just the Facts

Potential Annual Savings and Productivity Gains from Reduced Respiratory Disease:

- ◆ \$1-\$4 Billion from reduced allergies and asthma
- ◆ \$10-\$30 Billion from reduced sick building syndrome symptoms
- ◆ \$20-\$160 Billion from direct improvements in worker performance unrelated to health

William J. Fisk. Health and Productivity Gains From Better Indoor Environments and Their Relationship with Building Energy and Efficiency. 2000.

Carpet Prespray Delivers Results!

As the school year comes to an end and summer project work gears up, facilities are turning their attention to summer carpet cleaning.

A carpeted surface hides dirt very well making it all the more important to remove the dirt before it becomes embedded in the carpet fibers and causes damage. Restorative maintenance serves to extend the life cycle of the carpeting and to improve the indoor air quality within the facility.

Carpet prespray is an essential component of any carpet care program. Carpet prespray boasts many benefits; here are a few:

- ◆ Carpet prespray makes cleaning easier because the detergents in the prespray break-up the soils and make them easier to remove from the carpeting.
- ◆ Carpet prespray makes carpet cleaning more efficient because it allows for a greater amount of soil to be removed during extraction.
- ◆ Carpet prespray provides a more uniform appearance in carpeted areas within the facility, especially in high traffic areas.

It is important to remember that carpet cleaning should be conducted during the week rather than on a Friday to ensure that the carpeting dries properly and within 24 hours of cleaning. Generously apply the carpet prespray. For most carpet presprays, a gallon of prespray should be applied per 1,000 square feet of carpeting. Also, be sure to allow a 10 minute dwell time when using a carpet prespray. This gives the prespray time to work. For more carpet cleaning tips, contact Pike Systems at 630-896-6373.

What Results in Poor IAQ?

Many factors contribute to poor indoor air quality (IAQ) levels within facilities. Here are just a few of the items that negatively impact IAQ:

- ◆ Dirt, dust, and particulate matter
- ◆ Mold, viruses, and bacteria
- ◆ Cleaning products that contain respiratory irritants
- ◆ Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC's)
- ◆ Inadequate ventilation/ inefficient HVAC systems

Here are some easy ways to improve the indoor air quality in your facility:

- ◆ Use cleaning equipment that contains dust rather than redistributing it
- ◆ Utilize high filtration technology in your facility's vacuums
- ◆ Reduce the use of air fresheners
- ◆ Create clearly defined procedures that allow you to monitor and reduce chemical usage within your facility
- ◆ Evaluate the ventilation system in your facility and note any potential problems