

Hazard: Domestic Hygiene, Pests & Refuse

Identity of Hazard(s): This includes hazards which can result from poor design, layout and construction such that the dwelling cannot be readily kept clean and hygienic; access into the dwelling for pests; and inadequate and unhygienic provision for storing and disposal of household waste.¹

Primary Health Outcome(s): Gastro-intestinal illness, asthma¹

Health Alert! Traditionally, cockroaches were controlled because they are offensive, leave behind an awful smell, and cause gastrointestinal and respiratory illness. However, research shows that cockroach debris (old shells, saliva, body parts, and droppings) triggers asthma attacks in people who are sensitized to cockroach antigen (proteins found in the debris).²

Gain Control: Actions You Can Take^{2 3}

- Wipe off counters, tables, and stovetops after all meals, snacks, and food preparations.
 - Keep food confined to specific areas of the house and clean any spills immediately.
 - Keep all food and garbage in tightly sealed containers, and do not allow trash to accumulate too much.
 - Do not leave dirty dishes in the sink, on the counter, or in the dishwasher overnight.
 - Remove all piles of boxes, cardboard, newspapers, etc. from both inside and around the home. Remove other clutter as well to eliminate shelter and hiding places for cockroaches.
 - Caulk all cracks and crevices throughout the home around systems such as plumbing, electrical, and gas lines, as well as in places like cupboards and walls. Seal holes and cracks in building foundations, utility openings, and joints between materials.
 - Keep bushes and trees at least three feet from homes.
 - Ensure trash is stored in secure containers (covered garbage cans and dumpsters).
-

Local Asthma Resources for Detroit Residents :

- Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, Michigan Chapter: (248) 406-4254
- Wayne Children's Healthcare Access Program (Wayne CHAP): (313) 863-2427
- Children's Hospital of Michigan (Asthma, Allergy, & Immunology): (313) 745-5437

Local Pest Removal Resources for Detroit Residents:

- Detroit Public Works: (313) 876-0974
- Institute for Population Health: (313) 324-9501

¹http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=operating_guidance_hhrs_v1.pdf

²<http://www.nchh.org/WhatWeDo/HealthHazardsPreventionandSolutions/Insects.aspx>

³<http://www.nchh.org/What-We-Do/Health-Hazards--Prevention--and-Solutions/Rodents.aspx>