



The Ashkin Group

News Release

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Media Contact: Robert Kravitz

AlturaSolutions Communications

Telephone: 773-525-3021

E-mail: rkravitz@rcn.com

STUDY FINDS EMPLOYEES WORKING IN GREEN BUILDINGS MORE PRODUCTIVE

Green Benefits to be a Focal Point of Upcoming ISSA Tradeshow

Bloomington, IN – October 4, 2009 - A University of San Diego study released in September 2009 does not appear to

have received the attention it deserves, notes Green Cleaning advocate Stephen Ashkin, president of The Ashkin Group and Sustainable Tool, LLC.

The study found that employees working in Green buildings are more productive than their counterparts in non-Green facilities.

“The researchers identified a Green building as one that is LEED-certified or Energy Star-labeled,” says Ashkin.

The comprehensive study involved more than 2,000 workers from 154 different Green buildings. Formerly, these staffers worked in conventional, non-Green facilities.

During the study, researchers looked at two key measurements: number of sick days reported and self-reported productivity percentage changes.

Among the findings:

- Forty-five percent of respondents reported an average of 2.9 fewer sick days in the new Green location

- About the same percentage cited no significant change
- Nearly 43 percent of the employees agreed they were more productive in Green buildings; twelve percent said they *strongly* agreed they were more productive in Green buildings and 45 percent noted little change
- Ten percent actually reported an *increase* in the number of sick days after moving to a Green facility.

“Some clarification is needed to explain the last two statistics,” says Ashkin who will be presenting two seminars on Green Cleaning and sustainability issues at the upcoming ISSA tradeshow in Chicago, Oct 6-9, 2009.

“Many of these folks reporting no changes or even an increase in sick days were in Energy Star-labeled buildings that do not have indoor air quality (IAQ) requirements. LEED-certified buildings do have IAQ standards and that makes a big difference.”

Ashkin goes on to add that these findings are similar to other studies conducted over the past few years. “They remind us of the many benefits of Green buildings, which [are] not only fewer sick days and greater worker productivity, but enhanced employee retention, recruitment, and worker morale.”

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Steve Ashkin is available for interviews, presentations, and commentary on Green Cleaning-related issues, sustainable buildings, industry trends, and facility management. He may be reached by calling (812) 332-7950.

About Stephen Ashkin and The Ashkin Group

Stephen P. Ashkin is president of The Ashkin Group, a consulting firm specializing in greening the cleaning industry, as well as Sustainability Tool LLC, an electronic dashboard that allows jansan companies to measure, track and report on their facility’s environmental impacts, He is also coauthor

of both *The Business of Green Cleaning* and *Green Cleaning for Dummies*.

Ashkin has worked in the cleaning industry since 1981 and has held senior management positions in leading consumer and commercial product companies. He began his work on Green Cleaning in 1990 and today is thought of as the “father of Green cleaning”. For more information, visit www.AshkinGroup.com.