

## **The anti mite quality of Nettress**

One of the important factors in the success of environmental measures is early implementation, before the appearance of target organ damage. Many experts state that such measures should be used from early infancy and the earlier implemented, the better the results. Infants spend most of their time in the crib and bed. In spite of parent's natural concern about the cleanliness of their child's sleep environment, high levels of house dust mites (HDMs) were found in infant cribs. Concern regarding the possibility of toxic substances and allergens in the infant mattress or immediate sleep environment as a factor in the sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) was raised by some investigators. One of the etiologies of SIDS which was mentioned by some investigators was and allergic reaction. An association between SIDS and sleeping on used mattresses has been documented. In contrast to blankets, sheets and pillow covers which are washable, mattresses are not and the technical difficulty in cleaning them has lead to the conclusion that the only present way of cleaning them is by the use of impermeable covers. Only highly impermeable covers can prevent HDM allergen infiltration through the sheet.

In order to prevent the accumulation of HDMs in infant mattress, Lizron company developed a new sleeping surface, Nettress, which is based on a porous netting stretched over a wooden or aluminum frame devoid of any filling. This creates a sleep surface which is completely permeable to air and prevents any accumulation of dust or HDMs. In a study performed by Dr Costa Mumcuglu, Parasitology Department, Hadassah Hospital Medical School, Jerusalem, Israel, HDM survival on Nettress' new surface was compared to survival on standard mattresses. Dust mites, grown in culture, were placed on the experimental sleep surface and the control standard mattresses. The study and control mattresses were placed in standard conditions for HDM growth and after one week HDM numbers were compared. **HDM's could not survive on the experimental sleep surface whereas the mites not only survived but reproduced and proliferated on the standard mattresses.**