Let $p$ be a prime number. The generating function for the number of $p$-core partitions of $n$ is

$$
\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} p c_{p}(n) q^{n}=\prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\left(1-q^{p n}\right)^{p}}{1-q^{n}}
$$

We use the theory of modular forms, and the circle method of Hardy and Ramanujan to derive explicit bounds on $p c_{p}(n)$. (Received September 21, 2009)

