

# Asbestos: UO isolates asbestos in old buildings

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doors and even in the tiles that make up the floors of many of the University's buildings.

"We treat it all the same," Pelkey said. "From a trace to 50 percent, it's all managed with the same care."

Asbestos in campus buildings is managed by Pelkey and his two full-time employees, who check asbestos-filled fixtures twice a year for signs of wear. The asbestos is removed if the fixtures are worn and pose a threat.

"We manage it and we remove it when we need to," Pelkey said. "We go by EPA guidelines."

According to the EPA, asbestos-filled fixtures that are in good shape should be left alone and monitored for signs of wear.

Pelkey said each year certain buildings are slated for asbestos removal. Safe asbestos removal makes the campus altogether safer by reducing the number of sites Facilities Services has to monitor.

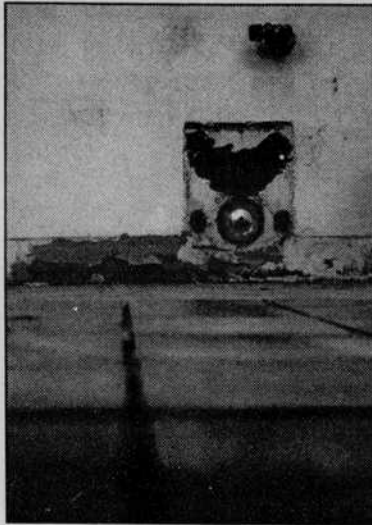
When asbestos is removed on campus, it is done only under strict supervision by skilled workers. For small jobs, Facilities Services uses its own employees. For larger jobs, construction crews are hired from a list of contractors approved by OUS.

Dickenson said OUS keeps between six and eight contractors on retainer. To get on the list, contractors must pass a lengthy evaluation process requiring all employees to submit references and licensing documents for consideration.

"We thoroughly review everything they submit," Dickenson said.

A number of methods have been developed for safely removing asbestos. For small jobs, like those around heating and cooling pipes, a glove bag is used.

A glove bag is an airtight bag that is sealed around the asbestos and has gloves sewn inside of it. A worker can put his hands in the gloves and remove the asbestos without ever



LAUREN WIMER | PHOTOGRAPHER

Asbestos was recently removed from beneath tiles in this ground floor restroom in Friendly Hall.

getting exposed to it.

For larger jobs, the area is sealed behind a wall and filtered fans are used to create an area of negative pressure within the work area. Even if a hole is poked in the plastic sealing, the area air will rush in from the outside and keep the asbestos from escaping. In either case, asbestos crews wear sealed suits and respirators as backup protection.

But procedures mean nothing without trained employees to follow them.

Allan Smith, Facilities Services business and human resources manager, said Pelkey is well qualified for the job and has to take classes and tests every year to maintain his license with the state to work with asbestos.

"The University is lucky to have Steve," Smith said.

For more information on asbestos removal and Pelkey's program go to [facilities.uoregon.edu/safety](http://facilities.uoregon.edu/safety).

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## IN BRIEF

### Parents of fallen soldier push for memorial for Oregon soldiers

PORTLAND — The parents of an Oregon soldier who was killed last fall in Iraq are leading an effort to build a memorial to all Oregon soldiers who lose their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan.

A proposal to build the memorial on the Capitol mall in Salem is under consideration, and has been endorsed by the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, which owns the

property that includes memorials for fallen soldiers from other wars.

Clay and M.J. Kesterson, whose son Erik was killed in a November helicopter crash, have drawn up plans, and arranged for volunteers to help with construction. The Independence couple has also set up a nonprofit corporation to raise money and deal with financing for the project.

Now they are seeking corporate sponsors and private donors for the \$500,000 it will take to build the memorial.

"This is my therapy," M.J. Kesterson told The Oregonian. "I thought about how I was ever going to get

through this. Rather than lock myself in the house and do nothing, I wanted to be proactive."

This week, Clay Kesterson has set up a table a 6-foot-long table at the Pendleton Roundup, with American flags on either side and a banner that says "Freedom isn't Free."

"I hope to talk to a lot of people," he said. "We want to give people the opportunity to donate to this memorial we're building."

The Kestersons hope to have the project completed by Nov. 15, 2005, the two-year anniversary of their son's death.

— Associated Press

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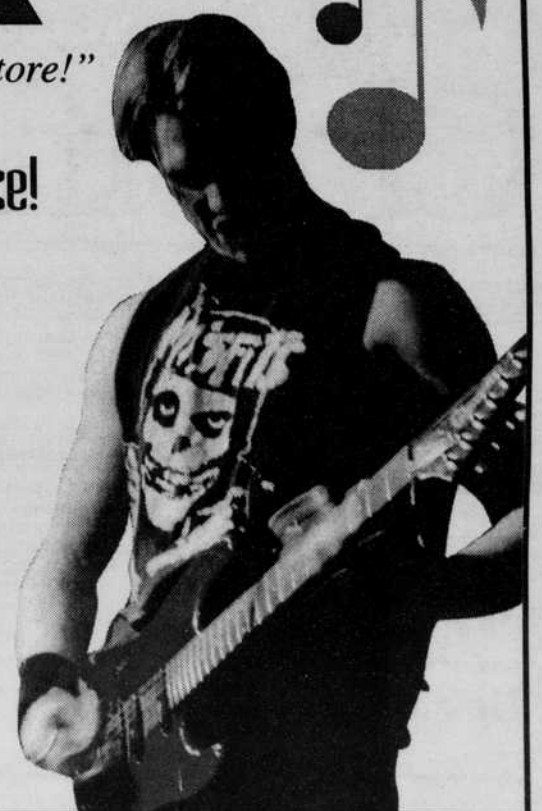
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