Many of the older buildings at the University of Washington were built with materials containing asbestos. Asbestos that is sealed into building materials does not pose a health threat.

But when asbestos is damaged or deteriorated, small fibers may be released into the air. When these small fibers are inhaled, they can increase the risk of serious health problems, including cancer.

The University of Washington is committing resources and personnel to protect all employees, students and visitors to the campus from potential asbestos health risks.

ASBESTOS CONTROL

The Department of Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) is involved in a variety of activities to control asbestos hazards on campus. Public health professionals are on staff to:

1. Determine where asbestos is located on campus
2. Assess the public health risk for each location
3. Investigate concerns about asbestos repair and removal projects to assure safe practices
4. Answer employee inquiries about asbestos hazards and protection
5. Provide asbestos safety information and training to employees.

ASBESTOS REMOVAL AND REPAIR

Facilities Services and the Capital Project Office repair and remove asbestos from University buildings. Engineers, architects, certified asbestos workers and skilled trades people work together to:

1. Make sure asbestos is not damaged during routine construction and maintenance projects
2. Repair damaged asbestos materials and surfaces
3. Safely remove asbestos from University buildings
4. Hire and supervise certified asbestos contractors for large-scale asbestos removal projects.

If you have questions about asbestos repair and removal projects call the Facilities Services Asbestos Coordinator at 206.685.3357.

If you have questions about asbestos hazards and protection, call EH&S Occupational Health and Safety Office at 206.543.7388.

Environmental Health and Safety
Box 354400
http://www.ehs.washington.edu
WHAT YOU CAN DO . . .

You can help prevent asbestos exposure to yourself and others:

- Report damaged ceilings, walls, pipe insulation or other building surfaces to your supervisor.
- Be careful not to damage building materials and surfaces that may contain asbestos.
- Call for an inspection before starting a project that could involve asbestos.

The following materials may contain asbestos:
Sprayed-on fireproofing, concrete pipes, concrete siding and roofing shingles, wallboard, corrugated and flat sheets for roofing, asphalt, vinyl, roofing felts, exterior siding, floor tile, joint compounds, adhesives, acoustical/ornamental plaster, spackling, fire doors, acoustic ceiling tiles, gaskets, flex-connectors on ducts, baseboard and tile mastic, window putty, insulation (troweled, sprayed, pre-formed), etc.

ASBESTOS SAFETY
FOR YOUR PROTECTION