



## Portland will be home to nation's first green dentist

Posted by The Oregonian

By Chatten Hayes for *The Oregonian*

Here's a business biting into sustainability in a big way: Mint Dental Works in Southeast Portland is poised to become the nation's first LEED certified dental practice.

The practice, run by Dr. Jason McMillan and his wife, Rebecca, features a rinsing technique with equipment that keeps the mouth moist but uses much less water -- saving about a gallon of water a minute during business hours. Dual-flush-valve toilets and sinkless treatment rooms in the practice's new space in the Buckman neighborhood, open since June, also conserve water.

"Dr. McMillan has selected a hand spray for sterilizing his hands before he gloves up," Jim Hammon of dental supplier Sullivan-Schein, says. "That's a big savings in water there."

Everything from chair fabrics to the air-circulation system was selected with the environment and the health of patients and staff in mind. Mint uses digital radiography, saving on film, chemicals and paper. Doors were salvaged, and cabinetry and surfaces contain no toxic adhesives.

"That's part of this process -- taking technology that is out there and retooling it for the industry," the dentist says.

Mint also launders onsite, eliminating pickups and deliveries. Also, McMillan often bikes to the office, as do some patients.



photos by BRENT WOJAHN/THE OREGONIAN

Jason McMillan, a dentist in Southeast Portland, expects that his office will soon be the first LEED-certified dental practice in the nation.

McMillan, a 2000 graduate of the Oregon Health & Science University's School of Dentistry bought his Southeast practice in 2003. His first building was small and dated, cosmetically and technologically. The McMillans, parents of Delaney, 4, and Cambell, 2, made changes but also looked for a new space.



Jason McMillan

Then they came across a former grocery store at 1401 S.E. Morrison St. (map) being renovated to house new tenants.

"It was like this little gem of a development," Rebecca McMillan says. "We loved the idea of being able to embrace all the original kind of cool architecture."

The McMillans decided to pursue a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design rating, a national benchmark for sustainable development, after consulting with Portland's Green Building Services about costs and benefits such as long-term savings and tax incentives.

"Really, our role was to help facilitate the whole process," Elaine Aye, a Green Building principal, says. "Rebecca was amazing, and she did a lot of research herself regarding materials." Aye says Mint expects to receive a platinum (the highest) or gold (next-highest) LEED rating. The process takes a few months.

Paolo Design Group designed the office. R&H Construction, where Rebecca McMillan worked for five years, built it.

Suppliers also played a role. "In today's dental world there are a few things that we can do with technology and equipment to kind of be friendlier to the environment," Hammon of Sullivan-Schein says.

Mint's sustainable philosophy has landed it in several dental industry magazines and is building the practice.

"The green community is very well networked," Rebecca McMillan says. The practice has about 1,000 patients, including a couple hundred who've joined at the new site.

"I was just stunned when I walked in there for the first time," says longtime patient Corliss Rogers, a real estate agent in Southwest. "It was just so unusually restful and pleasant, something a little different for a dental office."

The McMillans are willing to share their newfound knowledge, and Aye hopes other dentists pay attention. "They're an amazing company," she says, "and I really think they're setting the bar high for their peers."