

FORUM

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Help toilet operators keep the loos clean

WE REFER to the several letters on public toilets published in The Straits Times recently. We thank the writers for their feedback.

Maintaining clean public toilets requires the cooperation of both the public-toilet operator/building management and users.

Besides providing good infrastructure, it is key for public-toilet operators/building managements to have a good cleaning and maintenance regime, while users need to act responsibly when using public toilets.

Public toilets will not be clean if there is a lapse in any one of these aspects.

Under the law, public-toilet operators/building managements are required to provide adequate amenities, for example, hand soap and toilet paper.

In addition, there should also be cleaners to ensure that the toilets are always maintained in a clean condition.

Public-toilet operators/building managements have the responsibility to ensure that toilets are clean and in

good working condition at all times.

Similarly, it is just as important that users exercise civic responsibility and use toilets properly, with due care and consideration for the next user. As a member of the public has rightly pointed out in another forum, "as long as toilet users are inconsiderate, the washroom will remain smelly and filthy even if (it is) cleaned several times a day".

On its part, the National Environment Agency (NEA) will continue with its public-education programmes to promote good hygiene and sanitation practices.

At the same time, we will not hesitate to take stern action against operators who fail in their duty to keep their

public toilets clean. Since the beginning of this year, we have taken enforcement action against 64 shop operators for failing to maintain clean public toilets.

Members of the public can call us on 1800-CALL NEA (1800-2255 632) to alert us to dirty toilets for our follow-up action.

We appreciate readers' concern and thank them for taking the time to suggest solutions.

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