

S'pore still flush with dirty toilets: NEA survey

TOILETS at MRT stations, bus interchanges and non-HDB coffee shops have become dirtier in the last three years, while those in workplace canteens, cinemas and shopping centres showed improvements, a survey has found.

The main problems in the dirty toilets were dirty urinals, wet floors and more litter thrown in toilet cubicles, according to the National Environment Agency (NEA) survey of 727 randomly selected locations.

At the start of the World Toilet Summit yesterday, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office Lim Swee Say called on Singaporeans to make a greater effort to improve hygiene standards in public toilets.

They are still not up to scratch, despite Singapore having one of the most modern sanitation networks worldwide – with 100 per cent coverage of households and public places.

“There is no valid reason or excuse for this,” said Mr Lim.

On its part, NEA has stepped up enforcement action against eating places with dirty toilets, said NEA chief executive officer Andrew Tan, who was speaking at a separate event.

Some 460 warnings have been issued for unhygienic toilets so far this year.

The survey also found that 70 per cent of eating establishments had upgraded their toilet facilities over the last few years.

The upgrades included installing better lighting, separating the wet and dry areas by locating the hand washing basins farther from the toilets and installing vanity tops to provide a bigger surface area for users to place their belongings.

Face-to-face interviews of 640 establishment owners, 663 cleaners and 2,785 public users were conducted for the study.