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Hygiene concerns over mall's high-tech toilets

I HAVE tried to avoid washrooms in Raffles City Shopping Centre since sensor-activated taps and waterless flushing system for the urinals were introduced.

While I acknowledge the management's good intentions, it is a frustrating experience.

When I place my hand in the sink to trigger the sensor, the tap allows only a two-second flow of water. And one is allowed only a single repeat, after which the flow stops.

Four seconds is hardly enough time to rinse one's hands thoroughly after soaping. I am concerned about the many food outlets within the mall, all of which employ workers who handle food, and who, I am certain, will need to use the toilet during their working hours.

Unless each restaurant has its own washroom, I believe they would be using the same public toilets, and here is where I wonder if the management is facilitating proper personal hygiene.

Yin Shanqing

Latest comments

I will use the tap outside the toilets used by janitors and tenants. These are not fitted with water saving features, you just need to turn the tap and water flows as long as you want.

Singapore can turn any liquid or wastewater to drinking water but still have to conserve water. Better to conserve than to waste despite more than adequate self sufficiency to sustain the country water needs. Spore must conserve water and be humble and quiet of its cutting edge capability of producing its own water.

Posted by: hotwoks at Thu Feb 05 17:45:58 SGT 2009

It makes sense for malls to program the sensor of the tap to allow only a 2-second flow of water & allow only a single repeat, after which the flow stops. In this way, shoppers will not only use less water, but also less soap, since it is difficult to thoroughly wash away the usual amount of soap one uses, in 4 seconds.

I get around this problem by using the other taps on my left & right, once the flow of mine ceases.

Posted by: Eagle2004 at Thu Feb 05 16:30:32 SGT 2009

Wonder what's the problem with this? Are we too busy to spare a few more seconds to wash our hands? :)

Posted by: addicted2tehhalia at Thu Feb 05 14:56:11 SGT 2009

The authority will regret someday if the waterless urinals are allowed to operate any longer. Serious diseases may pop up from such public places.

You cannot save water if you want to cater for more people. It is simple logic. Flushing the urinals is basic hygiene and keeping the toilets clean is the responsibility of the mall management.

If saving water or cost is the prime consideration don't provide toilet facilities.

Abolish this practice before disaster strikes.

Posted by: steamroller at Thu Feb 05 11:06:16 SGT 2009

some sensor taps are not sensitive. i've the same experience as the writer. it's darn annoying.

Posted by: the_ultimate at Thu Feb 05 10:38:38 SGT 2009