

Who wants to wash hands in dirty toilets?

THE report, "Singaporeans' poor hygiene habits" (*my paper*, April 8) is timely in the wake of public disquiet over a recent food-poisoning case.

The survey shows that Singaporeans take hygiene practices for granted, which does not bode well for their well-being.

Why are there people who do not wash their hands before and after meals, especially in public eating places?

One reason is the deplorable condition of some public toilets.

It is easy to be put off by their foul odour, not to mention the sinks, which are clogged with tissues and food.

Hence, some people avoid using public toilets if they can help it, let alone wash their hands there.

If good hygiene habits are to

be encouraged, amenities such as soap and clean washbasins should be easily available.

There should be more pay-as-you-use toilets, which are usually better maintained.

Even if Singaporeans are hygiene-conscious, the same might not apply to food handlers.

Some of their practices leave much to be desired.

Some do not wear headgear or gloves while preparing food, while others do not take off their aprons while visiting the toilet.

As stallowners also hire part-time workers to handle food, I wonder if they are vaccinated against diseases.

To attain high standards of hygiene, the issue has to be addressed on all fronts.

It is an uphill task, but the de-

sired results can be achieved if everyone makes a concerted effort.


More importantly, the message that food-poisoning can kill should be spread to everyone.


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HELPDESK 我的字典

 **Public toilets:**
公厕 gōng cè

 **Amenities:**
便民设施 biàn mín shè shī

 **Aprons:** 围裙 wéi qún

 **Concerted:**
一致的 yī zhì de