

# Cleaners need to buck up too

I CANNOT agree more with the view that hawkers play a big part when it comes to hygiene in food preparation and maintaining the cleanliness of their stalls.

However, the National Environment Agency (NEA) should also look into how cleaners perform their duties.

NEA and cleaning companies should pay more attention to educating cleaners.

Cleaners need to be aware that they are also responsible for the cleanliness of a hawker centre.

Below are a few unhygienic practices by cleaners:

## Using one cloth to wipe tables without rinsing it

Most cleaners use the same cloth for hours.

I have seen some use clean-

ing cloths to wipe stools.

I wonder if they know that bacteria can be airborne.

Even if a cloth is rinsed, it is not done with soap. It is still the same dirty piece of cloth, which does not make things better.

## Putting pails on stools when clearing food debris

This is done while patrons are eating at the table.

It is unhygienic as pails can be oily and their contents sometimes smell.

Instead of carrying pails around, cleaners should be provided with pushcarts for the collection of refuse and used crockery.

## Unwillingness to clear dirty tables

At times, some cleaners refuse to clear tables even at the patrons' request.

They will say that a particular area or table is not their responsibility.

## Washing of floors and toilets

Cleaners wash floors and toilets in hawker centres by splashing water everywhere.

This just leaves the floor wet and it gets dirty again when people move around.

The level of cleanliness in hawker-centre toilets is unacceptable.

I have seen one which was upgraded just three months earlier, but which looked as if it had been used for years without maintenance.

Do cleaning companies ensure that toilets are well-maintained?

Last but not least, patrons need to ensure that they do not

fill crockery with used tissue paper.

They can help by not littering and throwing rubbish into dustbins.

If we want a safe and clean environment, everyone must do their part.

Ms Lim Li Li

## HELPDESK 我的字典

Cleaners: 清洁工人  
qīng jié gōng rén

Airborne: 空中传播的  
kōng zhōng chuán bō de

Pushcarts: 手推车  
shǒu tuī chē

Tissue paper: 纸巾  
zhǐ jīn