

Multi-tasking in the loo

SINGAPORE — One in five smokers here have smoked, or would do so, in a public toilet. Why? “To save time by multi-tasking in the toilet” or because public toilets were “the most convenient place to smoke”, were the most common reasons given in a recent street poll.

The poll, commissioned by Pfizer (Singapore) and the Restroom Association (Singapore) on 288 smokers, revealed that one in five smokers here had smoked or would do so in a public toilet.

The majority of such smokers also said that they would dispose of their cigarette butts in the toilet bowl.

However, those who had smoked in public toilets also said that there are deterrents to discourage them from smoking. More than one-third of such smokers said that while a heavy fine would be the most effective deterrent, at least a third felt that they would not smoke in the public toilet if it was very clean and nice-smelling.

In light of the findings, the pharmaceutical firm and the association have joined hands to

SUSPENDED FROM SELLING TOBACCO PRODUCTS

A provision shop owner in Serangoon has been suspended from selling tobacco products for six months after he was caught selling them to an underage youth for a second time.

A court had earlier fined Cheau Biau Teck, the owner of Cheau Provision Store at Block 238, Serangoon Avenue 2, \$2,500 for indirectly selling tobacco products to a person under 18.

The suspension, which took effect on Monday, will end on May 23.



HIGHLIGHTS OF SMOKING SURVEY

- **79.2%** of smokers usually “smoked outside the office during the work day”.
- **71.2%** also tended to smoke in “social settings with friends”.
- **43.4%** of all the smokers would usually smoke anytime be it during work or after meals, whether to kill time or relieve stress.
- Toilets at coffeeshops (**84.1%**) noted as the most common locations with cigarette burn marks or littered butts. Other common locations included toilets in pubs and clubs (**27%**) and shopping malls (**19%**).

TODAY FILE PHOTO

implement a public awareness drive to discourage smokers from lighting up in public toilets.

From next month, all 24,500 public toilets across Singapore will display posters underlining

the harm of nicotine addiction, encouraging smokers to overcome their cravings and quit the habit by calling the Health Promotion Board Quitline or seek help from a doctor or healthcare professional.