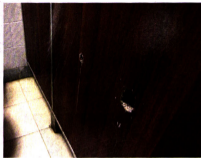


Golden Mile Complex flap



Tenants complain of lurking men and odd holes in toilet partition walls.

I DARE NOT USE LOO ANYMORE

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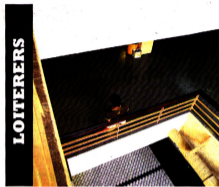
GROSS: Obscene proposals are scribbled in this third-storey too.



VANDALISM: Partition hole that was glued shut and then ripped open.

"I hate it that the men are around all day and they look at you like prey to be eaten. The men who visit those holes are sick."

—A 85-year-old Golden Mile Complex tenant, Mr Lee. He says he does not walk about the complex unless necessary



BEWARE: Men are often seen loitering near the male toilets, eyeing the users.



WHAT'S GOING ON?: Some occupy the same cubicle for hours.

DIRTY HAZARD ZONE

Harassed Golden Mile tenants avoid toilets plagued by 'lurkers and gropers'

REPORT PEARLY TAN
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For the last two years, he has been afraid of using the toilets outside his office.
Instead, Mr Tan (not his real name) walks some 100m to use the toilet at a petrol kiosk.
Why? Because he is convinced that some of the male toilets at his office, in Golden Mile Complex, are being used for homosexual acts.
The 28-year-old did not want to be identified because he is afraid of repercussions.
Said Mr Tan: "I don't dare to use the toilets. Having to go out of the building to use the toilet is better than being sexually harassed."

The businessman said he has been propositioned and even flashed at in the toilets, which are located on the second and third storeys of Golden Mile.
And the proposition he received came through a hole in the wall between toilet cubicles — a "glophole"

in sexual slurp.

These are holes used by perverts for peeping or for sexual activity.
When male reporters visited the toilets, the team found holes in the cubicles on both the second and third floors.
There were more on the first floor, probably because the partition walls are made of metal.
But on the higher floors, holes, one the size of a doorknob, at waist height, have been cut through the chipboard material.

Filthy loos

The toilets were also filthy.
Internet videos have surfaced, allegedly showing sex acts taking place through these holes in these toilets. They appear to have been taken in these toilets.
Online avatars are also issued for encounters in these toilets.
Said Mr Tan: "In February this year, I was in the

second last cubicle on the third floor at about noon when I finger came through the hole and gestated, I just appeared."

Mr Tan said he has seen local and foreign men loitering in the toilets. According to him, their ages vary widely. Some are in their 20s while others are older "40 plus".
He said: "Some are couples who are really sloppy and walk around in shorts, T-shirts and slippers."
"Wenger ones come in office wear and look like they took off from work."

He recalled an incident last year: "I was washing my hands and this man in his 30s wearing a striped shirt and office pants kept watching me."
Mr Tan said the man then suddenly ran into a cubicle and performed crude acts while scratching his reflection in the mirror.
Stunned and scared, Mr Tan said he ran out, but the man gave chase.

"He followed me all the way to the escalator before he turned to go back to the toilet," he claimed.
The men often hang around in the toilet, trying to make eye contact with those they target.

They walk around the toilet areas on both levels and sometimes even around the office units, said Mr Tan.

"They look up and down at you and watch you if you're going to the toilet."
"Usually the last two cubicles are occupied for hours. If you use the cubicle next to it, you can tell from their feet's position that they're facing the partition."

One of the holes appeared to have been previously glued shut, before it was forced open again, as dried glue remains around the hole.
Said a woman in her 60s, who goes by name only as Madam Tong: "The place is full of sh-kun (thick skin for homosexuals) just walking around every weekend."
"On the eve of public holidays, the whole place looks messy."

She goes there every day to collect soft drink cans to sell.
Mr Tan, who has worked at Golden Mile Complex for five years, said the problem began only in 2007, when the second and third storey toilets were renovated.
After the renovation, the partitions were changed from metal sheets to chipboard.
"That's when the holes started appearing. Nine-

days, the toilet is disgustingly filthy."
The New Paper spoke to a man, who identified himself only as Leonnie. He said he has used the cubicles several times.
Asked if he was worried about contracting disease, he said: "I don't need to know who's on the other side. Diseases are not an issue to me."

Miss Germaine Chong, 28, often visits her boyfriend who works in a canteen in Golden Mile Complex.
She said: "I used to tell my boyfriend to be careful when he goes to the toilet but now he knows better."

Avoid toilets

"He was groped in the toilet two months ago and now he won't use the toilets there."
Despite the hazards, Mr Tan said that he has no plans to move his company out of the building.
"It's a family business and it's close to the places we need to access frequently. I think I'll just ignore what's going on and do my job," said Mr Tan.

When The New Paper visited the toilets on 15 Jul, we noticed that one of the covered holes had been piled open.
Insurrection had been scribbled on one of the wooden partitions.
On the opposite partition, one could see the next cubicle through a hole.
One person occupied the dirty-lit cubicle

next door.
Savagely, the man sat in that cubicle for more than two hours.
Another tenant, who gave his name only as Mr Lee, said that he does not walk about the complex unless necessary.
"I hate it that the men are around all day and they look at you like prey to be eaten. The men who visit those holes are sick," said the 85-year-old.

The management of Golden Mile Complex, Management Corporation Straits Title 446, declined comment.
The New Paper contacted lawyer Foo Chewng Ming, 45, of KhattarWong law firm on the legal issues involved.

"Assuming it's between two consenting adults, without threat or coercion involved, it's in violation of 377A Penal Code," he said.
Under the act, any man who, in public or private, commits any act of gross indecency with another man, can be imprisoned for up to 2 years.

Mr Shashi Narayan, head of criminal litigation at Flacey Elias, said: "The misuse sexual acts move into the public sphere, it's about public indecency."
"It's still a public place, although behind doors."
The issue here is not the gender of the people involved. The police will also need to consider other issues such as age, consent and whether there is any exchange of money."

—Additional reporting by Naveen KesavaJagannathan