

New system to ensure clean loos

WITHIN a month, there were four letters to The New Paper about poorly maintained or designed public toilets or unhygienic practices by cleaners.

The letters were “Poorly-lit loos make it creepy” (24 Nov), “Worker used toilet water to clean” (23 Nov), “Rinsed toilet brush in basin” (11 Nov) and “Water down the drain” (24 Oct).

The Restroom Association of Singapore (RAS) is pleased as these letters show that users are asserting their rights and expressing their higher expectations for clean toilets.

The letters may also reflect badly on the respective toilet owners for their lapse in maintaining cleanliness in these public amenities.

We are sure the toilet owners will rectify, or may already have rectified, the problems.

However, these are recurring problems.

So the cleaners may be inadequately trained, under-supervised or both.

Also, the toilet mentioned in one of the letters had design flaws — poor lighting.

RAS is developing a new, integrated system to address this.

This system is being developed with the help of the World Toilet Organisation and its members, especially Japan.

The system aims to minimise problems like poor design and set standards for cleaning and maintenance.

It will have measurable benchmarks for cleanliness, maintenance and toilet design. This should ensure there won't be any more poorly lit toilets with a “creepy” atmosphere.

The lapses in cleaning toilets by some workers would also be minimised with continuous monitoring using the benchmarks.

A second aspect of the system is to empower cleaners by equipping them with the required skills to rectify situations such as attending to water leaks, instead of waiting for a maintenance team.

RAS will be more than happy to share these aspects of the system with toilet owners, facility managers and cleaning contractors.

Please contact us on 6841-1621 or e-mail info@toilet.org.sg

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