

STAR METRO INFO BASE

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Residents of high-rise dwellings tend to take the easy way out by throwing rubbish out of their windows and balconies. — Photos: AZHAR MAHFOF/The Star



Raining trash in the capital

Alam Flora reveals areas where indiscriminate rubbish disposal is rampant

By **BAVANI M**
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INDISCRIMINATE dumping of rubbish from upper floors is not confined to poor communities. According to data by waste company Alam Flora Sdn Bhd, this even happens in affluent neighbourhoods, including urban centres.

Alam Flora has listed down more than 20 hotspots for cases of "flying rubbish" - referring to rubbish being thrown from balconies, windows and rooftops of commercial buildings, shophouses, flats and apartments.

The areas identified are Bukit Bintang, Brickfields, Cheras, Chow Kit, Sentul and Pudu where Alam Flora contractors regularly contend with the problem of irresponsible rubbish disposal.

Alam Flora contractors, who spoke to *StarMetro* on condition of anonymity, said some of the rubbish end up on rooftops and balcony awnings, while some get entangled on satellite dishes, TV antennas and light poles, remaining there for months and sometimes years.

Apart from rubbish, cigarette butts are also found strewn everywhere and take ages to degrade.

At times, clothes hung out to dry along balconies get blown away by strong winds and end up on rooftops.

"No one bothers to clean these spots as it involves a lot of work, time and skill, so people pretend that it is not there," said one Alam Flora worker.

"We are paid to clean up, but when we tell people not to throw rubbish on rooftops, we are told to mind our own business," lamented a frustrated worker.

"Majority of the occupants of flats are foreign workers, and I have seen them throw rubbish from the balconies," said another worker.

"Even business owners do not take kindly to being told not to throw rubbish everywhere, it's very upsetting," he added.

For the record, Alam Flora does not have enforcement powers to take action and its workers are

KL hotspots for flying rubbish

- Outside Pasar Borong (back alley)
- Cempedak Flats
- Jalan Union Flats
- Jalan Gandek
- Jalan Kalong
- Lorong Merbau
- Lorong Meranti
- Jalan Bukit Bintang (back alley)
- Lorong Alor
- Jalan Walter Granier
- Lorong Berami
- Jalan Sahabat (back alley)
- Changkat Bukit Bintang (back alley)
- Jalan Sayur
- Jalan Landak (back alley)
- Jalan Brunei Utara
- Jalan Baba (back alley)
- Jalan Kooh Taik Ee
- Jalan Abraham
- Changkat Thambi Dollah (back alley)
- Lorong Tar Kanan 2
- Hock Ann Flats
- Jalan Hj Taib 3 (back alley)
- Taman Tenaga, Cheras
- Jalan Cerapu, Cheras
- Jalan Kundur, Cheras
- Jalan Travers (back alley)
- Jalan Thambypillai (back alley), Brickfields

We need to know the proper way to dispose of waste and understand the implications of throwing rubbish from high-rise buildings.

Datuk Mohd Zain Hassan

prone to being verbally abused by residents.

The *Star* photographer Azhar Mahfof, who spent the day in dingy alleys in various parts of the Golden Triangle, said he was appalled to see the level of apathy among the residents and business



As if this old satellite dish is not ugly enough, the soiled t-shirt may have gotten stuck here on its way down.