

The fatberg under our streets

Works Ministry takes legal actions against 70 for feeding sewer with fatty substances

● Cafeterias, restaurants and kitchen units mostly blamed for violations

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Many of us, it seems, are unaware of the extensive sewer system running beneath the streets of Bahrain.

By any chance, if you are one among them, know that these systems are instrumental in clearing our sewage and keeping our lives smoothly over the years.

However, modern society seems to ignore this and is flushing the drains with fats, grease, oil and other umpteen things that we shouldn't be doing.

The result: all of them congeal together to form, what experts call, a fatberg.

What do they do?

They block drains, break pipes, and cause localised flooding.

Went it happens, lives go awry. Authorities here say they are



Representative picture

fighting this menace here in the Kingdom too.

They have also pinpointed the troublemakers.

Works Ministry says cafeterias, restaurants and kitchen units are greatly responsible for feeding the fatbergs choking the sewers in the Kingdom.

This issue vexes public works officials and costs tax-payers thousands of dinars.

Eateries in the Kingdom, a Works Ministry report says, are

contributing to the clogging by failing to instal grease traps and other control measures.

"This means that fat, oil and grease from such places are finding their way directly into the network's pipes and drains, destroying it."

"During the first half of the year, the ministry detected and took legal actions against 70 such violators," the report said.

Judicial control officers at the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Af-

fairs and Endowments detected the violations.

Of the 70 violations recorded, 60 were for feeding the net-

work with prohibited materials, six for unlicensed connections, three for working without a permit and one for unauthorised discharge.

The judicial control officers served notices to all violators after inspecting the site.

Officers also met the people responsible for the action and asked them to correct them within a prescribed time.

In this regard, the Works Ministry stressed the importance of awareness campaigns on the proper use of control mechanisms and their significant impact on the efficiency and effectiveness of wastewater transportation and treatment process.

The works ministry said it had involved the Ministry of Trade and Industry in issuing and renewing commercial registrations to ensure compliance, especially where fat traps are a must.



What does the law say?

Law No. 33 of 2006 aims at regulating sewage disposal and surface water drainage to protect the environment against pollution. Article 7 deals with precautions to be taken by the licensee to prevent damages to the environment and public health.

The law also states that it is illegal to link drainages to public sewage facilities without obtaining a licence and throw, dispose or allow discharge of materials that could damage the network.

The ministry says it's also illegal to feed public sewage networks with discolouring materials, petroleum, alcohol, calcium carbide, yeast, highly acidic or alkaline substances, industrial detergents, cyanide and sulphide compounds, tar, oils, greases and similar substances.



Turning fatberg into biodiesel



Yes, you heard it right. People had also found ways to turn these monstrous mounds of grease into valuable and green biofuel. The method works like this: FOG [fats, oils and greases, the building blocks of fatbergs] are heated to between 90 and 110 degrees Celsius, and then hydrogen peroxide is added to break down organic matter and release fatty acids. Bacteria are then used to break down the fatty acids, producing methane.



'Call for your furniture' continues success

Southern Municipality collects 160 tonnes of used furniture in H1, 2022

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An initiative launched to discourage people from throwing away unwanted furniture in random places continues to reap remarkable success in the Southern governorate, with them collecting over 160 tonnes of used furniture in the first half of this year.

It just doesn't end there! The "Call for your furniture" initiative, born out of necessity in 2020, till now, has collected over 1,210 tonnes of used furniture, for which officials made 484 house visits.

Earlier, municipal officials and cleaning workers were in a constant struggle to dispose of furniture thrown out by res-



idents in vehicles designed to remove household wastes.

That is also solved now. The project also arms workers with

specially designed vehicles to transport large objects.

Most importantly, it has killed the practice of throwing un-

wanted furniture in open spaces, streets and near garbage containers.

Southern Municipality said officials visited 61 houses in the first half of this year from the 1st of January to the 31st of June.

The Municipal Council and the Urbaser Cleaning Company are backing the initiative.

How does it work?

Once the municipality gets a call, officials will visit the caller with a specially designed truck to transport the furniture.

Furniture thus collected will be either dismantled or repurposed.

The municipality decided to launch the initiative following complaints by cleaning company workers, who struggled to transport extra-large materials dumped on the streets.

Who to call?

Now, if a citizen wants to dispose of some unused furniture, all needed is to contact officials on the number 80070000.

The service focuses mainly elderly, people of determination and special cases.

Officials collect furniture on Sundays and Thursdays.

The ministry said they would roll out the initiative to more people residing in the southern regions and expand collection days from two to five days a week.



Health Minister, Dr Jaleela bin Al-Sayed Jawad Hassan, yesterday held talks with French Ambassador, Jerome Cauchard and discussed ways to bolster cooperation in the health sector. The minister stressed the importance of enhancing bilateral cooperation in health, particularly in light of the memoranda of understanding signed between the two sides.



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday hosted the second round of bilateral consultations between Bahrain and Singapore, headed by Dr Sheikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Political Affairs, and Ing Tek Hen, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore for the Pacific and Southeast Asia Region. The meeting mulled ways of enhancing cooperation and exchanging experiences in political, economic, commercial, investment, tourism, environmental, technical and cultural fields to activate the memorandum of understanding signed in 2014 and complement the outcomes of the first round of consultations held in Singapore in 2014. 2016. Dr Sheikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Political Affairs, praised Bahrain's strong ties with Singapore. The two sides also affirmed their keenness to continue regular consultation in addition to coordinating diplomatic positions regarding regional issues.