

Singbuild fined S\$3,000 for polluting Whampoa River

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SINGAPORE: Construction company Singbuild was on Wednesday (Dec 9) fined S\$3,000 for illegally discharging a bonding agent into a roadside drain beside a construction site for the Viridian condominium at Jalan Ampas.

The substance found its way into **Whampoa River** on Jan 24 and turned the waters white.

The National Environment Agency (NEA) said its contractors along with that from national water agency PUB took about 15 hours to clean up **Whampoa River**, as well as the roadside drain at Jalan Ampas.

"Such bonding agents should be stored in intermediate bulk containers and disposed of off-site by engaging a NEA-licensed toxic industrial waste collector," NEA said.

The agency added that discharging of pollutive matter into drains and canals can cause environmental and public health hazards. The offence carries a maximum fine of S\$20,000 upon the first conviction, and S\$50,000 for the second and subsequent convictions.

Singbuild was also charged for two other offences - for discharging trade effluent containing the bonding agent into public sewers without PUB's approval and for discharging construction debris into the sewerage system. The company was fined S\$2,000 for each offence, which carries a maximum fine of S\$20,000.

If members of the public see any pollution in canals and drains, they can notify NEA via its 24-hour call centre at 1800 2255 632, or they can tip off PUB at 1900 2255 782. - CNA/dl

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Clean-up in Whampoa River after whitish discharge discovered

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SINGAPORE: The **Whampoa River** - which flows into Marina Reservoir - is being cleaned up after whitish discharge was spotted at 8.30am on Saturday (Jan 24).

But the authorities said online sensors showed that water quality downstream is within the normal range. Initial checks showed the discharge had flowed from a riverside drain along Jalan Ampas, into the **Whampoa River**. The discharge was contained at 10.30am.

The authorities say they take great effort to ensure raw water is treated properly, before it reaches households. PUB monitors the quality of the raw water in our reservoirs and the raw water is treated at the waterworks to [World Health Organisation](#) drinking water quality guidelines before it is supplied to households.

Water samples have been collected for testing, and investigation is ongoing. - CNA/ec

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