

Legislative Council Panel on Housing

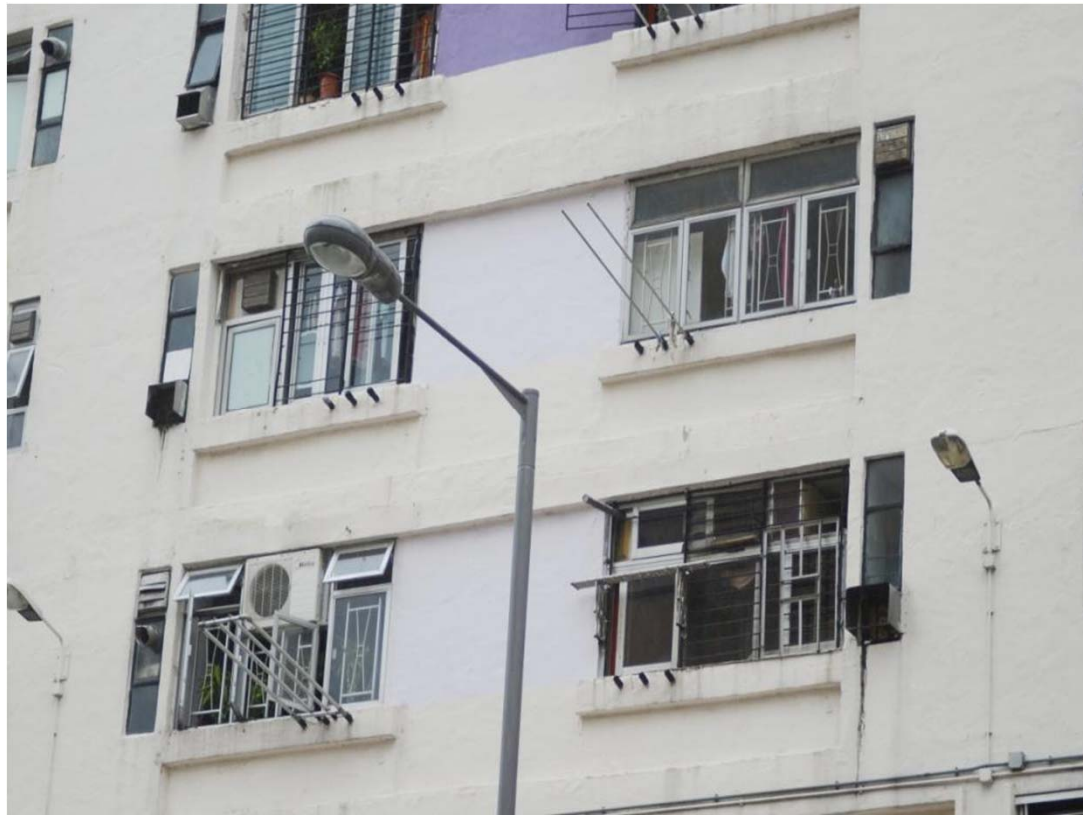
Proposed Subsidy Scheme for the Replacement of Laundry Pole Holders by Laundry Racks in Public Rental Flats

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6 January 2014

Evolution of laundry facility design

- Pole holders are provided for most of the estates completed before 2005.



Evolution of laundry facility design

- The balcony ceiling of flats in most of the Standard block types are usually installed with alternate racks or hangers.



Alternate racks/
hangers

Evolution of laundry facility design

- Since 2011, laundry rods have become standard provisions.



Background

- Subsidy scheme launched in 2004/2005 to convert laundry pole holders to stainless steel racks (tenants contributed \$200).
- Free installation of laundry racks for all-elderly families upon request and physically disabled persons subject to advice from medical practitioners.
- Tenants may apply for installation of approved types of laundry racks according to HD guidelines.

The Proposal

- Convert pole holders to cord-pulley type laundry racks on a subsidy basis to improve the living standard. (Amount of subsidy: HA to contribute about \$1,500 and tenants will pay \$300)
- Designs to comply with Building (Minor Works) Regulation.
- Parallel type as 1st choice and perpendicular type if space re-entrants does not permit. Stainless steel racks are used given its durability.
- Exact width and position of laundry rack will suit the condition of individual estates.

Parallel Type



Perpendicular Type



Programme and Coverage

- Applicable to all public rental flats with pole holders.
- Proactive survey on tenants' intention to replace with a new rack.
- All installation works to complete in about 2 years.
- Tentatively no end date for the Subsidy Scheme.

Advantages of the Subsidy Scheme

1. **Environmentally friendly without wastage**

Provide to those who need only (many tenants prefer to use balcony ceiling hangers, harmony block tenants prefer to use approved laundry rods outside living rooms). ([photo](#))

2. **Spending public money prudently**

A total replacement will spend HA fund over \$900M (not recommended).

3. **Ensure compliance with Building (Minor Works) Regulation**

Tenants may procure device or works that are not in compliance with the Regulation. Replacement arrangement made by the HD's can ensure the quality and durability.

Exemption from Payment

- Exemption of \$300 payment:
 - (a) for families with all elderly members over 60;
 - (b) for disabled persons recommended by medical practitioners;
 - (c) for families receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance; and
 - (d) for families under Rent Assistance Scheme.

Way Forward

- Subject to endorsement of Subsidised Housing Committee under the Housing Authority, the proposed Subsidy Scheme is expected to launch in 2014/15.

Thank you

Laundry rod installed by tenant outside living room of Harmony Block



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