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Beijing toilets 北京厕所新规

北京市政府颁发法令，规定任何时候公共卫生间都不能出现两只以上的苍蝇。这仅是政府机构为了改善城市公共厕所而制定的一系列新规则中的一项措施。

请听 BBC 记者 Michael Bristow 发回的报道。

Six city departments have **put their heads together** to come up with the new rules.

They cover cleaning, the use of equipment and training for attendants.

No public toilet should have more than two flies **buzzing around** - although the **regulations** don't state how that's to be checked. There's also an **ordinance** covering what's confusingly referred to as "discarded items". There should be no more than two of these left in any **public convenience**.

The new standards also detail how **smelly** a lavatory should be. Most people who've **paid a visit** to a Beijing public toilet, know at the moment they're very **pungent** indeed. Of course, there is a serious side to these new regulations. Many people who live in the city's old neighbourhoods still don't have their own toilet and have no choice but to use public conveniences. For them, these rules might make an unavoidable daily necessity, a touch more **palatable**.

Questions

1. Does the new rule include dead flies?
2. What is another expression for public toilets?
3. If something has a very strong unpleasant smell, how can we describe it?
4. Do most homes in Beijing's old neighbourhoods have their own toilets?

Glossary 词汇

put their heads together	一起想办法
attendants	服务员
buzzing around	嗡嗡作响, 飞来飞去
regulations	法规
ordinance	条例
public convenience	公厕
smelly	臭臭的
paid a visit	去(哪里)参观
pungent	很重, 刺鼻的
palatable	可口的, 能接受的

Answers to the questions

1. Does the new rule include dead flies?

Answer: It's not very clear. The rule suggests live flies that are flying around are counted.

2. What is another expression for public toilets?

Answer: Public convenience.

3. If something has a very strong unpleasant smell, how can we describe it?

Answer: A pungent smell.

4. Do most homes in Beijing's old neighbourhoods have their own toilets?

Answer: No, most homes in the old neighbourhoods have no private toilets. The residents have to use the public toilets.