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Today's Crossword**



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# BMC gets wise about waste

## *To Enforce Segregation Of Garbage In Residential Societies*

*By Shalini Nair/TNN*

Mumbai: If you been dumping milk packets, paper and kitchen waste in a single dustbin, you have five days to clean up your act. Come March 1 and it will be compulsory for all Mumbaikars to segregate waste or cough up a fine.

This is one of the many rules featured in the municipal solid waste rules 2006 that articulates the role to be played by citizens and the BMC to ensure a clean city. It also specifies the fines for non-compliance of the various rules. The BMC's previous attempts at getting people to segregate waste was a damp squib owing to its failure to provide door-to-door garbage collection. This time the civic body has meticulously chalked out collection routes and timings so that both dry waste and wet waste will be collected separately. The recyclable dry waste will be picked up by rag-pickers at the collection point while the wet waste will be composted.

To make the plan foolproof, the fines will not only be applicable to citizens but also to transporters or BMC workers. "We have tried to rationalise the fines so that it is neither too high to invite corruption nor too low to be taken lightly," said Vinay Somani from the NGO Council Karmayog which is expected to act as interface between the BMC and citizens.

The civic body will arrange for composting pits for residential societies which agree to practice biocomposting. "Residents, citizens' groups and corporators can come forward to form citizens' cleanliness teams in each of the 227 electoral wards. These teams would submit periodical report," said additional municipal commissioner Subrat Ratho. While composting of bio-degradable waste is optional for existing residential colonies, it will be made mandatory for bulk generators of waste like hotels and those staying in new constructions six months down the line.

### **FINE ACT**

Littering: Rs 100 Not segregating waste in bins: Rs 100 (individual), Rs

500 (bulk)

For disposal of waste by burning: Rs 500 For not keeping a house gully clean: Rs 1,000