

# Highs and lows

Lifts have come a long way, becoming more common and technologically advanced. But accidents and inconveniences have also been part of their history.

1906

Singapore's first electric passenger lift is installed in Winchester House at Collyer Quay by the building owner, Mr Loke Yew, a businessman and philanthropist. The building was demolished in 1989.



1960s

The Housing and Development Board takes over from the SIT and builds higher-rise housing with lifts that stop every few floors.

1970s

Lift robberies start to make headlines.

1972

At York Hill estate in Tiong Bahru, a man is killed when an HDB lift he is entering shoots up abruptly.

1990

All new buildings higher than four storeys, including HDB blocks, must have lifts that stop at every floor. This is under the new code on barrier-free accessibility in buildings.



2001

The standalone Lift Upgrading Programme is announced. Previously, such upgrading was carried out as part of the HDB's main and interim upgrading programmes.

1931

A person described by reports as a "Chinese servant" is killed in a lift accident in Fullerton Building.

1950s

The Singapore Improvement Trust (SIT) begins to build public housing, including blocks with a single lift each. These lifts had a wooden cab and usually served the ground, third and sixth floors.



1988

The HDB starts to install urine detectors, to tackle a problem which was reportedly affecting one-fifth of the 10,100 HDB lifts then operating.

1996

A technician sent to repair a stalled lift at Block 33 Chai Chee Avenue is killed when the doors suddenly slam on him. The lift had been recently installed as part of upgrading.