

How a Quick Build Dormitory is constructed

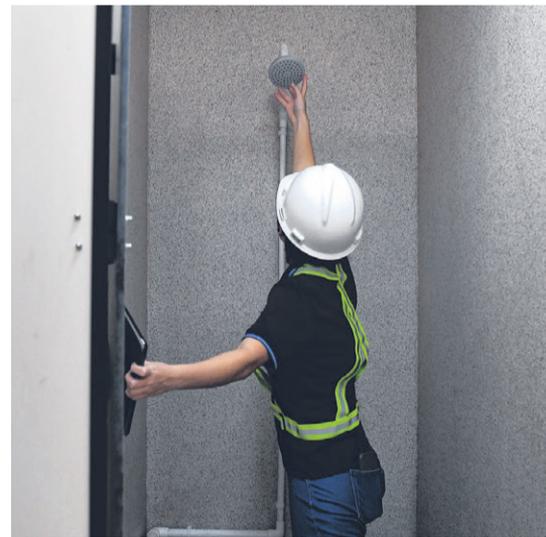
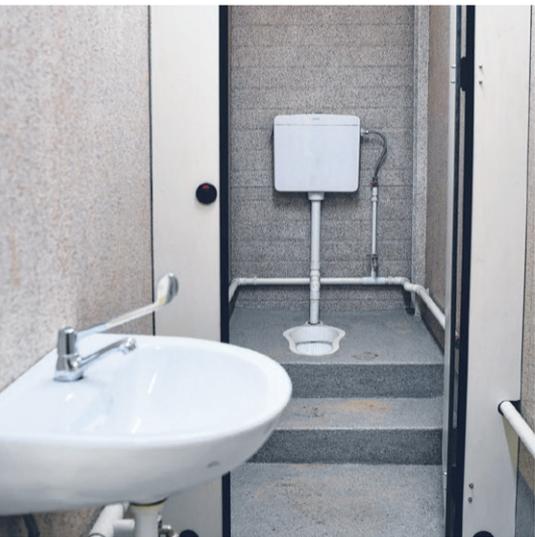
Eight new Quick Build Dormitories (QBDs) will provide temporary housing for migrant workers and serve as a test bed for the Government to pilot improved standards for dorms before it decides on specifications for new permanent dorms. The Straits Times takes a look at the construction process for one such QBD in Kranji Way, which will take just three to four months to be completed.



1 After land at the site is excavated and prepared, a concrete foundation is laid. Steel columns and beams are put up, forming the structure of the dormitory block. To speed up the process of construction, prefabricated steel beams that are manufactured offsite and which can be quickly assembled at the site are used.



2 External panels, which are also prefabricated, are added to the structure, forming the walls. A metal roof with insulating material is also added to keep the structure cool. Keeping the block to a single storey, instead of having multiple levels, keeps the structure light. This also helps to shorten the construction process as piling works do not have to be done to support a heavier structure.



3 The interior is fitted out with internal dividing walls and other amenities such as beds and toilets. The dormitory blocks have a modular design, meaning that the same design and construction process can be replicated for each block in the compound. In total, there are 20 blocks at the 2.5ha site. The QBD in Kranji Way will have shared facilities such as a canteen, a minimart, indoor recreational areas and multi-purpose hardcourts.



Ms Tang Woan Ling, 35, JTC senior project manager, is overseeing work on the QBD in Kranji Way. She is seen here with Mr Alan Ong, 46, JTC principal project manager overseeing work on a QBD site in Tuas Avenue 2, and Mr Kenneth Lim (right), 53, project director of Eco Energy and ACL Construction Joint Venture, the main contractor for the Kranji project.