



4 ColorWash
 03-27 Mandarin Gallery, tel: 6235-9130,
 open from 11 am to 8 pm daily

Who: Like most women, Korean-born Gemma Gil, 39, loves her It bags. However, the fact that there were no shops that catered to the care and repair of these designer goods bothered her.

So the former tourist guide and freelance translator, who is married to a Singaporean businessman, decided to open a professional cleaning store for designer bags and shoes in Siglap in 2003.

Today, her shop has three franchise outlets here, as well as two in Jakarta and Hong Kong. Plans are underway to expand to other Asian cities. The Mandarin Gallery outlet opened last year.

What: Up to 500 designer bags can be found in the back workroom at any one time. There, three employees conduct minor cleaning jobs on bags

and shoes. There is also a dryer that kills bacteria and dehumidifies leather without shrinking it.

For major jobs like colouring, the bags and shoes are moved to the ColorWash factory in Upper Paya Lebar Road.

Noted for: Attentive care for your prized bags and shoes. For one, the chemicals used are eco-friendly. "Expensive brands use the best leather. The chemicals that we use are mild and do not affect the quality of the leather," says Gil.

The spray colouring service, managed by her brother and co-partner, is popular with those whose leather bags have been scratched, stained or have their colours faded.

High-end labels, including Chanel and Prada, regularly recommend their clients to have their products cleaned at her shop.

Rates: Waterproofing starts from \$10 for shoes and from \$20 for bags. Prices for recolouring jobs start from \$70 for a wallet and from \$100 for bags.