

HEALTH ALERT: How to Protect Yourself Against New Zealand's Leaky Building Crisis

By Marie Broderick

EVERY DAY we hear reports about another casualty associated with New Zealand's Leaky Building Crisis. We either personally know someone who has been affected, or can't help but hear the ongoing reports flooding the newspapers and local media.

The reality is, there is no hiding from the problem. Local Christchurch Certified Builder David Whyte sees the devastation every day. People's homes literally leaking at the seams from poor workmanship or bandaid style repair jobs. Sadly it's not just the older homes that are suffering. David has visited almost new homes that have experienced just as much damage.

So how do you know your family and yourself are safe? And what can you do to make sure your home doesn't become the next news story? David assures us there is plenty that can be done, but it must be done promptly.

"It's not just the financial cost that you could be lumped with if you leave any problems unchecked, but also the health implications of living in a mouldy home," warns David.

"A particularly potent black mould known as *Stachybotrys* is the real worry. It can be present inside the wall cavity without any external signs and if this little guy's spores become airborne then they can be inhaled by anyone in close vicinity. It's really bad news and is considered a serious health hazard," warns David.

"*Stachybotrys* is associated with health problems such as difficulty in breathing, sore throat, watery eyes, skin irritation, aches and pains and in serious cases the destruction of the immune system. More alarmingly, infants and children have been diagnosed with associated lung tissue damage and memory loss. This mould is not one to mess around with."

So how do you know if your home is at risk? "This mould is usually hidden in bathrooms, kitchens or garage type areas - mainly in damp spots created by minor invisible leaks. The US Centres for Disease Control (CDC)



Stachybotrys chartarum is a black mould that is both allergenic and toxic. It is considered a serious health hazard.

has warned that symptoms can take years to develop so you're better off hunting it out now. Often it's inside wall cavities so not visible to the naked eye."

David recommends getting an expert to check your home, even if you don't feel you're at risk. "It's better to be safe than sorry in this situation. Just knowing that you or your family could be at risk should be motivation enough."

"I meet with families who are concerned about the implications if their home is diagnosed with Leaky Building Syndrome, or *Stachybotrys* is found, they put it off and put it off rather than facing the problem. And I don't blame them, it's a huge burden to carry, but

"It's better to be safe than sorry in this situation. Just knowing that you or your family could be at risk should be motivation enough."



David Whyte, Certified Builder, helping New Zealanders fight back against Leaky Building Syndrome

unfortunately one that only gets heavier, more dangerous and more expensive the longer it is ignored"

If your home is found to need repairs, then you're not alone. Government assistance is available if your home has been built in the last 6 years OR if you've purchased a home in the last 10 years. But

you need to lodge your claim prior to this time or you'll be up for 100% of the costs - sometimes running into the hundreds of thousands of dollars. David warns, "If you're in the process of building now, then make sure your builder is certified, this is your best bet that you will be leak free moving forward."

In response to growing concern David has just released a FREE "Leaky Buildings Consumer Rescue Guide" (valued at \$147) that reveals all you need to know about leaky buildings, what dangers you face, and what to do about it.

David has 17 copies of the guide to give away. To claim your copy, simply see the ad below or call the free 24-hour recorded message line on 0800 333 360 and leave your name, mailing details and telephone number.

Or, for immediate access now, simply go to www.LeakyBuildingSolutions.com

The 'Leaky Buildings Consumer Rescue Guide' is full of expert advice about Leaky Building problems including what to look for and how to protect your home, so it's really worth taking advantage of getting a copy today.

ATTENTION: New Breakthrough Consumer Rescue Guide Reveals...

"How To Avoid The Dangers of NZ's Leaky Building Crisis..."

Finally! A New Zealand Building Expert reveals all you need to know about Leaky Buildings, what dangers you face - and what to do about it.

If you're concerned about the potential problems a leaky home may cause - health problems, financial costs, family stress and the deterioration of possibly your most precious asset - then the 'Leaky Building Consumer Rescue Guide' will help put you on the right track, whether that's peace of mind or how to take action if your home is affected.

Inside your 'Consumer Rescue Guide' you will learn:

Just what Leaky Building Syndrome is and why it is important you don't ignore this wide spread epidemic, no matter how safe you think you might be

How to identify the early warning signs of Leaky Building Syndrome in your own home to avoid further deterioration and financial burden; and

The real and little known dangers you and your family could be under from toxic mould caused by dampness.

To get your no-obligation **FREE** copy of this guide

(valued at \$147), discretely sent to your home via mail, be one of the first 17 people to contact us in the next 7 days by either calling our free 24-hour pre-recorded message line on **0800 333 360** and leave your name, mailing details and telephone number, download your free copy at: www.LeakyBuildingSolutions.com or complete the coupon below and mail it back to us to have your report sent out immediately.



This Consumer Rescue Guide includes all you need to know

FREE, FAST, NO-RISK REPLY COUPON

Yes! Please rush me my very own **FREE** copy of the "Leaky Building Syndrome Consumer Rescue Guide". Complete and mail this coupon now to PO Box 27 - 259, Shirley, Christchurch.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

EMAIL _____