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Killer tanks

Where would you run for safety? Your home, of course, but imagine how devastating it would be if your home is not even the home you expect it to be.

My woe started after a warm shower: I heard a weird cracking noise and 10 seconds later, there was a loud crash! We rushed to the bathroom to find the water tank had fallen from the ceiling and smashed all the sanitary wares! This was followed by 200 gallons of water gushing into our bedroom and living room! The disaster would have caused me my life if I was still in the bathroom. Thank goodness.

My carpets were soaked wet and the hassle to deal with the accident caused me pain, anger and anguish – it was traumatic. After a “postmortem” by the professionals, we found the disaster was caused by the use of inappropriate wood to support the tank.

I don't have pictures to show for this, as the repair works have been done and I've moved out of the house. The lesson I learnt is not to take things for granted. Everything may look fine and dandy but there are hidden problems that could even cause lives!

I was lucky to have escaped but others may not be so. Although I wasn't hurt in the incident, it wasn't easy to get things in order again.

As for what happened next, I promptly moved out, as I cannot bear to be in that house anymore.

Adeline Zariah
Johor Baru, Johor

Type of unit: Terrace
Nature of disaster: Falling water tank
Estimated cost of repairs: RM10,000

It's a stinking mess

Whenever someone went to the toilet upstairs, we're kept in the loop as well. And it's not because we have keen ears, but for the fact that leaks will inevitably take place in my living room and dining hall!

Imagine having guests over, and having them enjoy a cup of tea over the stench

It is unbearable, even to my family and I, and I suspect the lack of visits from friends and family is simply due to this filthy dilemma.

From our predicament, this is the lesson that I learnt: Never buy a home with septic pipes literally right on top of your head. It is an eyesore, a design nightmare, and let's not even talk about aesthetics.

It has also lessened the value of my house and although I've attempted to sell it for a much lower price (once resorting to throwing in a free fridge!), there were no buyers.

Looks like I don't have a choice but to live with the nightmare, conduct renovation works to hide the scar that has been plaguing my home and cover my indoor garden as the smell has attracted unwanted pests.

It has cost me a fortune to rectify, but after months of working on the house, I finally have a home which I envisioned. After completing the work, I now have for the first time, a home I'm not shy to invite people into.

However, the story does not end here: Although the foul smells are gone, I'm still treated to the sounds of septic water whenever somebody upstairs flushes.

Tunku Adnan Tunku Kassim
Puchong, Selangor

Type of unit: Terrace
Nature of disaster:
Protruding and leaking down
pipes
Estimated cost of repairs:
RM10,000

Plugging the
leaking pipe
and covering
up the walls
and indoor
garden has
cost some
RM10,000.



Septic pipes located at the wrong place could produce unsavoury outcomes.



If you have a horrifying story on home defects, we'd like to hear it. Get the entry forms from www.pam.org.my or www.architectcentre.com.my. All stories judged worthy of publishing every fortnight will win OKIN termite inspection vouchers worth RM200 each and RM250 worth of DorteZ locks. Weekly winners will be in the running to win grand prizes worth more than RM18,000 in total!

You could either email your entry to nst.property@gmail.com or post it to NST-Property, "Your Worst Nightmare Competition", 4th Floor, Balai Berita, 31 Jalan Riong, 59100 Kuala Lumpur or to Architect Centre Sdn Bhd, 486 Jalan Tamsil, 50480 Kuala Lumpur. For more information, email info@architectcentre.com.my or call 03-2698 2488.

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