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Homeowners may have a potential flood on their hands

A potential flood threat could be right down the hall for some homeowners, and they may not realize it until it's too late.

In recent years, insurance companies across Canada have reported an increase in damage to homes caused by water leaks.

In some cases, it costs more than \$100,000 to repair the home and replace damaged belongings. Water damage often requires significant work by contractors to remove and replace gyproc, flooring, cupboards, etc. and may take a number of months to complete.

“One significant cause of water damage is the rupture of toilet tanks when homeowners are away,” said Rick Barks, Assistant Vice-President of Personal Lines at SGI CANADA. “In particular, our experience has shown that homeowners with a certain Crane toilet tank may have cause for concern.”

Crane Plumbing Corporation is a manufacturer of a variety of plumbing fixtures such as bathtubs, showers, sinks and toilets. A potential problem in one type of Crane low-profile toilet tank has caused many tanks to rupture without warning, resulting in considerable water damage to homes. Eventually, this gave rise to a class

action lawsuit in British Columbia where the tanks were made.

The Crane toilet tanks containing the potential problem were manufactured between Jan. 1, 1980 and Jan. 1, 1991. To check if your tank is from this production series, do the following:

- Remove the toilet tank lid.
- Inside the tank on the back wall you will see an 8-digit serial number stamped into the porcelain of the tank. You may need a flashlight to see this.
- If the serial number begins with the letter “V” and the third and fourth digits are 80 to 91 (year of manufacture) you may have a tank with a potential problem.

“If you have this type of Crane toilet tank, you should consider replacing it to protect against the possibility of damage to your home,” said Barks. “Contact a licensed plumber for assistance if necessary.”

For more information on protecting your home, contact your insurance broker annually to ensure your policies are accurate, up-to-date and provide the coverage your family needs. For more information on loss prevention, visit the

Safety Tips section on SGI CANADA's website at www.sgicanada.ca.

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