



**GENEROSITY:** Nigel Karl (right), of Pakuranga PlaceMakers, co-ordinated suppliers and Tiger Building to fix Rochelle and John Dawson's home. Times photos Jackie Russell.

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**BUSINESSES** and individuals have pooled resources to help a family trapped with a ruined home after it was left uninhabitable when a fly deterrent treatment went horribly wrong.

Earlier this year, the Dawson family told their story to the Times, describing how a seemingly safe fly spray left a toxic cocktail in their home.

The technician may have incorrectly applied the chemicals or used an inappropriate product.

He has not accepted any responsibility for the situation and insurance companies have left the family high and dry.

To make their Botany home habitable, John and Rochelle Dawson have juggled running their business and caring for their two children with completely stripping and relining their house.

Everything had to be removed from the house – including furniture, bedding, kitchen units and clothing – because the chemicals could not be effectively cleaned from fabric or hard surfaces.

When PlaceMakers Pakuranga account manager Nigel Karl heard about the family's plight, he rallied numerous contacts he has established through the Kids in Cars charity.



**TOXIC PROBLEM:** Rochelle Dawson and her two-year-old son Jake in their home three months ago after it had been stripped. Times photo Bruce Nicholson.

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**ON THE JOB:** Tiger Building has supplied voluntary manpower.

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**“I spoke to Dale King, PlaceMakers’ joint-venture manager, and he said ‘go for gold’, so I started talking with suppliers,” says Mr Karl. “Within 24 hours we had people on board.”**

**Tiger Building director Lawrence Boucher provided the labour and about 10 builders have spent a day working on finishing lines, flooring, doors and fitting the kitchen.**

Paint, tiles, doors and much more were donated by generous suppliers, and individuals have sent retail vouchers to the Dawson's to help them replace linen and other household items.

“PlaceMakers is a finalist in the Westpac Manukau Business Excellence Awards for its community service and this project falls in to what we are also doing for Kids in Cars,” says Mr Karl.

The Lions Club of Bucklands Beach has planned a working bee to help with painting and finishing work.

The Dawson's are completely overwhelmed by the support.

“Microsoft donated an Xbox for Madison, LG a television, and Eureka Tiles is donating the most beautiful tiles for both bathrooms and have arranged for tilers to donate their time,” says Mrs Dawson.

“The list goes on and on. We just can't believe it. We feel really fortunate to have met Nigel and are so grateful for his time and effort and the follow on from that. To have strangers pitching in like this, taking an interest in us, is amazing.”