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## Homeowners file suit against Tadian

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A group of 40 homeowners in the Ashford of Clarkston subdivision sued Troy's Tadian Homes and its Illinois-based parent company Tuesday, alleging substandard construction practices in the 53-home community.

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The suit, filed in Oakland County Circuit Court, names Tadian, Warrenville, Ill.,-based Neumann Homes, window supplier MW Manufacturers Inc., and two Neumann and Tadian subsidiaries. Neumann acquired Tadian, founded in metro Detroit 20-plus years ago, in January.

Tadian built the subdivision, on Sashabaw Road south of Oak Hill Road, in the late 1990s and early 2000s.

The Ashford homeowners, who bought homes ranging from 2,600 square feet to 3,100 square feet for \$270,000-plus, allege a host of construction defects including improperly installed windows, mold buildup, defective furnaces, substandard floors and improper grading that led to leaks. They further allege that Tadian ignored homeowner complaints and tried to cover up defects listed in an internal company report.

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"They put their trust in Tadian and now they feel betrayed," said Mark Rossman, an attorney with Mantese & Associates, the Troy law firm that filed the suit on behalf of the Ashford homeowners. "Tadian Homes has done nothing to remedy these problems. Tadian has essentially turned their backs on them."

Rossman is seeking class-action status, claiming similar defects at two other Tadian subdivisions; the Woods of Orchard Square in Sterling Heights and Glenwood Park in Troy.

But Dennis Bailey, division manager for Tadian, said he is unaware of any homeowner complaints in Orchard Square or Glenwood. He acknowledged Ashford had an unusual number of problems - most connected to faulty windows - but said he believes the company has addressed them all.

"What the attorney is alleging is absolutely false," Bailey said, in reference to the allegation Tadian ignored complaints. "We have spent an inordinate amount of time working on issues in that community over the last four years."

Tadian representatives were on-site at Ashford up to two years past the time the builder's warranty on the homes expired, he said.

"I'm not aware of, today, any complaint with any home that exists in Ashford," Bailey said.

In the suit filed Tuesday, Rossman refers extensively to a report from a former Tadian employee detailing defects at various Tadian communities. The employee, who shared the report with the Ashford homeowners, was fired, Rossman said.

Bailey said the warranty service worker resigned after working for Tadian for a short time, under circumstances not connected to the report.

At Ashford, home defects have been showing up for several years, Rossman said.

In the lawsuit, Rossman alleges breach of contract, fraud, violations of the Michigan Consumer Protection Act and several other violations of law. He will seek relief "in the millions of dollars" for his clients, he said.

A trial on the matter likely wouldn't take place until some time next year, Rossman estimated.

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