

## Controversies: 3M

- In December 2022, it was found that Illinois had failed to act despite knowledge of [3M polluting the Mississippi River with PFAS](#) for more than a decade.
- In November 2022, [the state of California sued 3M and several other companies](#) over decade-long PFAS pollution to recoup clean-up costs.
- In November 2022, [3M agreed to an EPA order to sample and provide treatment for PFAS contamination of drinking water](#) near the Cordova, IL facility.
- In September 2022, 3M and Wolverine Worldwide were [ordered to pay \\$54 million to Michigan property owners harmed by PFAS contamination](#) under a proposed settlement in a class action case issued in 2020.
- In March 2022, [Belgian authorities rejected 3M's appeal](#) against a decision to tighten discharge standards for PFAS chemicals from 3M's Zwijndrecht plant. A [\\$581 settlement](#) with the Flemish government for soil remediation and resolution of other identified damages related to PFAS contamination was agreed upon, but as of July 2022, 3M is likely to have additional liabilities over and above the settlement.
- In May 2022, 3M agreed to pay a [\\$2.84 million penalty](#) after a two-year state investigation found widespread hazardous waste at the company's Cottage Grove facility in Minnesota.
- In May 2022, [the Massachusetts Attorney General sued 13 manufacturers](#), including 3M, of PFAS used in firefighting foam for causing millions of dollars in damages to communities across Massachusetts.
- In May 2022, [the City of San Diego sued more than 20 companies](#), including 3M, over decades-long water contamination from PFAS, which had been found in samples from around southern California.
- In May 2022, [Dane County officials sued 3M as well as other firefighting foam manufacturers](#), alleging their products contaminated the area around the county's airport in Wisconsin.
- In April 2022, [the City of Portsmouth sued 3M, Dupont, and several other companies](#), alleging their products contaminated the city's drinking water with PFAS.
- In April 2022, the Illinois Attorney General filed a lawsuit alleging that [3M manufactured and used PFAS chemicals for years](#), contaminating the environment around its Cordova facility.

- In March 2022, a US district court allowed an [Ohio firefighter to file a class action lawsuit against 3M and other manufacturers](#) for knowingly manufacturing and distributing toxic PFAS chemicals and products.
- In March 2022, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, [filed a lawsuit against 3M and other manufacturers of PFAS](#) for causing soil and water contamination throughout the region.
- In February 2022, [the Colorado Attorney General sued 15 manufacturers](#), including 3M, of PFAS-containing firefighting foams for contaminating water sources and soil across the state.
- In February 2022, 3M and 27 other manufacturers [were reported to face a product liability lawsuit](#) brought against them by 14 Massachusetts firefighters, alleging that their protective clothing contained PFAS chemicals associated with serious health disorders.
- In February 2022, 3M, Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics, Honeywell, and residents of upstate New York secured a federal court's final approval for a [\\$65 million class settlement](#) resolving claims that their drinking water was contaminated with PFOA.
- In January 2022, [Prince George County, Maryland, sued 24 manufacturers, including 3M, of PFAS-containing firefighting foam for \\$250 million](#), accusing the companies of failing to warn the public of the harmfulness of their products.
- In January 2022, [Woodbury, Minnesota lost a municipal water well to polluting chemicals made by 3M](#). The city announced that four out of the city's 16 operating wells have now been shut down due to traces of PFcs found in the water.
- In January 2022, the Charleston County Aviation Authority (running the Charleston International Airport in South Carolina), [sued 3M and other manufacturers of PFAS-containing firefighting foam](#) for causing environmental contamination.
- In January 2022, 3M and other companies agreed to a [\\$12 million water contamination settlement](#) to resolve claims that they contaminated residential water sources in Alabama during periods between October 5, 2013 and September 26, 2016.
- In November 2021, [3M shut down some operations at a factory in Belgium](#) after the Flemish environmental agency banned emissions of PFAS in response to study results that found increased levels of PFAS chemicals in the blood of residents living within 3 km of the factory site.
- In November 2021, the Water Replenishment District of [Southern California sued 3M, Corteva, Chemours and others](#) for polluting water sources with PFAS.

- In November 2021, [North Carolina sued 3M](#), DuPont and other manufacturers of firefighting foams, claiming that the products contain toxic chemicals that contaminate the state's groundwaters.
- In October 2021, 3M agreed to [pay \\$98.4 million to settle claims](#) over PFAS contamination of the Tennessee River from the manufacturing and disposal of the chemicals at its Decatur industrial site in Morgan County, Alabama, USA.
- In October 2021, a [fire](#) broke out in 3M's tapes and adhesives manufacturing facility in Knoxville, Tennessee, USA.
- In the summer of 2021, [four New Jersey towns](#) and a water supplier sued 3M, DuPont and other PFAS producers for contaminating water sources.
- In the summer of 2021, 3M, Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics Corp. and Honeywell International settled a putative class-action lawsuit by residents of [a New York town by agreeing to pay \\$65.25 million](#) to resolve claims that the companies contaminated the town's drinking water with a toxic chemical.
- In the summer of 2021, [a toxic gas leak](#) at 3M's Zwijndrecht facility resulted in the release of 43 cubic metres of caustic sodium hydroxide, according to information from the Flemish waste management agency in Belgium (OVAM). At the same time, there were also [news reports of 3M being involved in a PFAS scandal](#). Belgian regional authorities discovered that the plant in Zwijndrecht, which produced PFAS between 1976 and 2002, has been dumping huge quantities of PFAS into the environment for years. The issue has elevated into national politics and is ongoing.
- In December 2020, the [city of Fullerton](#) joined the [Orange County lawsuit](#) against 3M and several other chemical producers for alleged contamination of water by persistent chemicals. The lawsuit seeks damages and compensation for hundreds of millions of USD from the companies.
- In May 2020, Tampa Bay Water, a regional supplier of water for more than 2,5 million people, [filed a lawsuit against 3M and another chemical producer](#) over contamination by perfluorinated chemicals in water supplies.
- In January 2020, [the State of Michigan sued 3M and several other chemical producers for contamination by persistent chemicals](#).
- In November 2019, [the State of New York sued 3M, Chemours, and Dupont](#) for alleged contamination of drinking water by persistent chemicals.

- In June 2019, [the State of Vermont sued 3M and Dupont](#) over groundwater contamination by perfluorinated chemicals.
- In June 2019, 3M [admitted to unlawful release](#) of a perfluorinated chemical to the Tennessee River that supplies drinking water to hundreds of thousands of people.
- In May 2019, [the State of New Hampshire sued 3M](#) and several other chemical producers over alleged contamination of water supplies by perfluorinated chemicals. Whereas other lawsuits have focused on specific contaminated sites, this was the first one to seek compensation for state-wide contamination.
- In May 2019, [internal documents revealed](#) that 3M failed to act on PFAS dangers for decades.
- In June 2018, Attorney General Underwood and Governor Cuomo of the State of New York sued 3M and a number of other chemical producers in order to recoup at least 38 million USD in costs incurred by the state in cleaning up environmental contamination caused by perfluorinated chemicals in their products, such as firefighting foam.
- In February 2018, [3M settled an 850 million USD lawsuit](#) issued by the State of Minnesota over contamination by perfluorinated chemicals. The state initially sought 5 billion USD in punitive damages from 3M, making it the largest environmental lawsuit in the state's history, claiming 3M knowingly contaminated groundwater.
- Between 2018 and 2022, 3M paid more than [1 billion USD in fines for environmental violations](#), according to the violation tracker project of Good Jobs First.