

## Controversies: 3M

- In the summer of 2021, there were [news reports of 3M being involved in a PFAS scandal in Belgium](#).<sup>1</sup> Belgian regional authorities discovered that a 3M plant in Zwijndrecht, that 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 a number of other chemical producers for alleged contamination of water by persistent chemicals. The lawsuit seeks damages and compensations 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 a number of other chemical producers for contamination by persistent chemicals.
- In December 2019, DECATUR, Ala., an Alabama school system, [prepared suing 3M](#) over claims that chemicals leaked from a closed landfill into the school systems property.
- 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 a number of 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](#) 3M failed to act on PFAS dangers for decades.

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<sup>1</sup> This incident does not affect this year's ChemScore rating for 3M since it occurred outside of the evaluation period.

- 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 ground water.
- In May 2012, [New Hampshire sued 3M and seven other companies](#) for contamination by persistent chemicals.
- Between 2011 and 2020, 3M paid more than [850 million USD in fines for 17 environmental violations](#), according to the violation tracker project of Good Jobs First.