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## **WOLVERINE WORLDWIDE SUES 3M FOR CONCEALING INFORMATION ABOUT SCOTCHGARD™ AND CAUSING ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

### *Wolverine Also Asks the State of Michigan to Hold 3M Accountable*

**Rockford, Mich., December 19, 2018** — Wolverine Worldwide filed a lawsuit today in federal court against 3M, which developed, tested, manufactured, and sold Scotchgard™ – the substance containing chemicals (known as PFOA and PFOS) that are alleged to have caused environmental pollution and groundwater contamination underneath Wolverine’s properties and in surrounding areas.

“3M made it, 3M sold it at a profit to thousands of companies and millions of consumers for decades, and 3M can no longer run from its responsibilities to Wolverine, the community, and the State of Michigan for the impacts of Scotchgard™,” Wolverine Worldwide CEO and Chairman Blake W. Krueger said. “Wolverine has already demonstrated its commitment to helping our friends, family and neighbors address groundwater concerns by conducting extensive water testing and providing highly effective water filters. Now, we are taking necessary steps to ensure that 3M is held accountable for its conduct and participates in the remediation efforts we have been leading for more than 18 months.”

#### **3M Concealed Information From Wolverine, Other Customers**

Wolverine purchased Scotchgard™ from 3M for decades, and used it to make shoes repellent to water and stains. Wolverine disposed of waste from its application process consistent with 3M’s recommendations and practices, and in compliance with the laws and industry standards existing at that time. 3M knew for years, however, that PFOA and PFOS – two chemicals in Scotchgard™ – posed environmental risks.

3M always assured customers like Wolverine that Scotchgard™ was safe based on 3M’s extensive testing, and failed to warn them about any potential environmental risks. Even after 3M publicly announced a change in its formula in 2000 to eliminate PFOA and PFOS from Scotchgard™, 3M continued to sell the old formula for two more years and maintained that PFOA and PFOS posed no environmental or health risks – a position 3M maintains to this day.

A complete copy of Wolverine’s lawsuit against 3M can be found at Wolverine’s blog, [WeAreWolverine.com](http://WeAreWolverine.com).

## **Wolverine Calls on State of Michigan to Sue 3M**

Today, Wolverine also filed a notice in federal court urging the State of Michigan to add 3M as a defendant in the State's existing lawsuit against Wolverine. In doing so, Wolverine is asking the State to fulfill the request of Michigan Governor Rick Snyder, who earlier this year called for the State to sue 3M over products containing PFOA and PFOS, which were used for decades in commercial products like firefighting foams and metal plating, and in common consumer items like food wrappers, microwave popcorn bags, Teflon™, carpets, and Scotchgard™.

As the Governor noted, PFOA and PFOS were used in many products by customers across Michigan, and have contributed to environmental issues in multiple communities. At last count, the State of Michigan is reviewing 36 sites for the presence of PFOA and PFOS manufactured by 3M.

States such as Minnesota and New York have already sued 3M, and the time is long overdue for Michigan to do the same. Earlier this year, the State of Minnesota reached an \$850 million settlement with 3M over its actions to conceal scientific data and mislead regulators and customers about the potential risks of PFOA and PFOS. Given this, the State of Michigan, local municipalities, and other 3M customers should also be eager to demand participation from 3M.

## **Wolverine's Rapid Response and Ongoing Community Commitment**

None of the legal initiatives announced today diminish Wolverine's continued commitment to the community that the Company has been a part of for more than 135 years. Wolverine has been proactive and demonstrated its community support by:

- Sampling over 1,500 residential wells and installing more than 70 monitoring wells;
- Offering bottled drinking water to every home being sampled;
- Providing over 500 whole-house filters and over 200 point-of-use filters that are proven to eliminate PFOA and PFOS; and
- Working at an accelerated pace with the MDEQ and EPA at the House Street disposal site and former Tannery site to fully determine the possible sources and extent of PFOA and PFOS.

Wolverine's actions today related to 3M and the State of Michigan are fully consistent with what Wolverine has said from the start – that all involved parties must be involved in discussing and developing solutions. This includes Wolverine's insurers, who have refused to honor their policies, forcing Wolverine to sue them last week in Kent County Circuit Court to seek their participation in Wolverine's defense and remediation efforts.

Wolverine should not be the only company shouldering the responsibility for this situation. 3M, unfortunately, has repeatedly refused to participate or accept any responsibility in Wolverine's hometown or anywhere else in Michigan.

## **ABOUT WOLVERINE WORLDWIDE**

With a commitment to service and product excellence, Wolverine World Wide, Inc. is one of the world's leading marketers and licensors of branded casual, active lifestyle, work, outdoor sport, athletic, children's and uniform footwear and apparel. The Company's portfolio of highly recognized brands includes: Merrell®, Sperry®, Hush Puppies®, Saucony®, Wolverine®, Keds®, Stride Rite®, Chaco®, Bates®, and HYTEST®. The Company also is the global footwear licensee of the popular brands Cat® and Harley-Davidson®. The Company's products are carried by leading retailers in the U.S. and globally in approximately 200 countries and territories. For additional information, please visit our website, [wolverineworldwide.com](http://wolverineworldwide.com).

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