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The New York Times  
Wednesday, January 7, 2009

# Business

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## New Settlement In Plumbing Suit

DOW JONES  
Published: November 9, 1995

The Hoechst Celanese Corporation, the United States unit of the German chemical company Hoechst A.G., said today that it and Shell Oil had agreed to pay \$950 million to settle a class-action lawsuit concerning faulty plumbing systems.

That represents an increase of \$100 million from the \$850 million amount in the original settlement agreement.

The suit involves polybutylene plumbing. Shell Oil, a unit of the Royal Dutch/Shell Group, made the resin used to manufacture the pipes; Hoechst Celanese made the fittings.

Thousands of homeowners in several states began suing the companies in the 1980's after the plumbing began to leak, damaging their homes.

Neither company admitted liability in the case. A Hoechst Celanese spokeswoman said the payment was increased because the two companies had expected a third defendant, E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Company, to join the settlement. She said Du Pont was refusing to participate.

At a hearing today, the court agreed to combine the Tennessee suit with a class-action suit in Alabama courts.

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