

Georgia-Pacific Swipes Clorox With Patent Suit

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Thursday, Mar 27, 2008 --- Paper manufacturer Georgia-Pacific Consumer Products LP sued Clorox Co. and its subsidiary Armor All/STP Products Co. on Tuesday, alleging that the two companies infringed a patent regarding a container made specifically to hold wipes.

In a lawsuit filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia, Georgia-Pacific accused the two companies of infringing its patent entitled "Refillable Flexible Sheet Dispenser."

The patent refers to a flexible sheet container that allows a user to "quickly and easily feed a leading sheet." It also permits finger access to the storage area of the container through the dispenser opening as needed.

According to the patent application, the Georgia-Pacific version of the sheet dispenser helps make it easier for a user to feed the sheet through the orifice and is specially designed to prevent sheets from tearing.

Clorox infringed the patent by manufacturing and selling its Clorox Disinfecting Wipes, while Armor All infringed with its Armor Ally Cleaning Wipes, Armor Ally Glass Wipes, Armor Ally Leather Wipes, Armor Ally Orange Cleaning Wipes, Armor Ally Original Protectant Wipes and Armor Ally Ultra Shine Wipes.

"Upon information and belief, defendants have engaged in the manufacture, offered for sale and use of products and/or methods for using a product that infringe one or more claims of" Georgia-Pacific's patent, the company said.

Georgia-Pacific argued that it was entitled to compensatory damages, which amounts to a reasonable royalty at minimum, treble damages for willful infringement, attorneys' fees and costs, and a preliminary and permanent injunction against further infringement.

The patent is U.S. Patent Number 6,910,579.

Georgia-Pacific is represented in the matter by Robins Kaplan Miller & Ciresi LLP.

The case is Georgia-Pacific Consumer Products LP v. The Clorox Co. et al, case number 08-cv-01176, in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia.