

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION**

In re

WICKES INC. *
[Tax ID 36-3554758]
706 North Deerpath Drive
Vernon Hills, IL 60061

Debtor.

Chapter 11
Case No. 04-02221

Honorable Bruce W. Black

**NOTICE OF COMMENCEMENT OF CASE UNDER CHAPTER 11 OF THE BANKRUPTCY CODE,
MEETING OF CREDITORS, FIXING OF CERTAIN DATES, AND SETTING OF
CERTAIN CASE MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES**

Name and Address of Attorneys for Debtor:

David N. Missner, Esq.
Marc I. Fenton, Esq.
Steven J. Christenholz, Esq.
Piper Rudnick LLP
203 North LaSalle Street
Suite 1800
Chicago, IL 60601-1293

AND

Richard M. Bendix, Jr., Esq.
Mark B. Butterman, Esq.
David E. Beker, Esq.
Schwartz, Cooper, Greenberger & Krauss
180 North LaSalle Street
Suite 2700
Chicago, IL 60601-1293

Telephone Number: (312) 368-4000
Fax Number: (312) 236-7516

Telephone Number: (312) 346-1300
Fax Number: (312) 782-8416

Name and Address of Attorneys for Official Committee of Creditor's Holding Unsecured Claims:

Fruman Jacobson, Esq.
Robert E. Richards, Esq.
Pia N. Thompson, Esq.
Patrick Maxcy, Esq.
Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal LLP
8000 Sears Tower
Chicago, IL 60606

Telephone Number: (312) 876-8000

Fax Number: (312) 876-7934

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**DATE, TIME AND LOCATION OF
SECTION 341(a) MEETING OF CREDITORS**

Date: April 28, 2004 Time: 1:30 p.m.
Location: 227 W. Monroe, Suite #3330
Chicago, IL 60604

DEADLINE TO FILE A PROOF OF CLAIM

For all creditors (other than governmental units): May 26, 2004.
For governmental units: July 17, 2004.

Any Claims against the Debtor must be filed with the claims agent appointed by the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division (the "Court"), Bankruptcy Management Corp. (the "Claims Agent"), by submitting a proof of claim to the address listed below for the Official Noticing and Claims Agent.

Name and Address of Clerk of Court:

Office of the Clerk of the Bankruptcy Court
219 South Dearborn
Chicago, IL 60604

Telephone Number: (312) 435-5694
Website Address: <http://www.ilnb.uscourts.gov>

**Name and Address of Official Noticing and Claims Agent for
Clerk of Court (i.e., where Proofs of Claim should be filed):**

By hand/courier:
Bankruptcy Management Corporation
1330 East Franklin Avenue
El Segundo, CA 90245

By mail:
PO Box 1016
El Segundo, CA 90245-1016

Telephone Number: (888) 909-0100

COMMENCEMENT OF CASE. On January 20, 2004, a petition for reorganization under chapter 11 of Title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code") was filed in this Court by Wickes Inc. ("Debtor"), and an order for relief was entered. You may be a creditor of the Debtor. *You will not receive notice of all documents filed in the case.* At this time, all documents filed with the Court, including Schedules of the Debtor's assets and liabilities, are or will be available for inspection at the Office of the Clerk of the Bankruptcy Court or by contacting the Noticing Agent of the Court at the address listed herein. In addition, such documents may be available from the Court's website at <http://www.ilnb.uscourts.gov> or the Debtor's private website at <http://www.bmccorp.net/wickes>. **NOTE:** Neither the staff of the Clerk of the Bankruptcy Court nor of Bankruptcy Management Corporation is permitted to give legal advice. You may want to consult an attorney to protect your rights.

PURPOSE OF CHAPTER 11 FILING. Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code enables a debtor to reorganize pursuant to a plan. A plan is not effective unless approved by the Court at a confirmation hearing. Creditors will be given notice concerning any plan, or in the event that this case is dismissed or converted to another chapter of the Bankruptcy Code. The Debtor will remain in possession of their properties and will continue to operate their businesses unless a trustee is appointed.

CREDITORS MAY NOT TAKE CERTAIN ACTIONS. A creditor is anyone to whom a debtor owes money or property. Under the Bankruptcy Code, the Debtor is granted certain protection against creditors. Common examples of prohibited actions by creditors are contacting the Debtor to demand repayment, taking action against the Debtor to collect money owed to creditors or to take property of the Debtor, and starting or continuing foreclosure actions, or repossessions. If unauthorized actions are taken by a creditor against the Debtor, the Court may penalize that creditor. A creditor who is considering taking action against the Debtor or the property of the Debtor should review Section 362 of the Bankruptcy Code and may wish to seek legal advice.

MEETING OF CREDITORS. The Debtor's representative, as specified in Bankruptcy Rule 9001(5), is required to appear at the meeting of creditors on the date and at the place set forth herein for the purpose of being examined under oath. Attendance by creditors at the meeting is welcomed, but not required. At the meeting, the creditors may examine the Debtor and transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting. The meeting may be continued or adjourned from time to time by notice at the meeting, without further written notice to creditors.

CLAIMS. The Schedules of Assets and Liabilities, and amendments thereto, as necessary (the "Schedules"), have been filed pursuant to Federal Bankruptcy Rule 1007 and the Local Rules of the Bankruptcy Court. Any creditor holding a scheduled claim that is not listed as disputed, contingent or unliquidated as to amount may, but is not required to, file a proof of claim or interest in these cases. Creditors whose claims are either (i) not scheduled, (ii) scheduled inaccurately, or (iii) whose claims are listed as disputed, contingent or unliquidated as to amount and who desire to participate in the case or share in any distribution must file their proofs of claim. A creditor who desires to rely on the schedule of creditors has the responsibility for determining that the claim is listed accurately.

A Proof of Claim form is enclosed herewith. The place to file a proof of claim, either in person or by mail, is with Bankruptcy Management Corporation, the Official Claims Agent for Wickes Inc., at the address listed herein. Creditors should reference Wickes Inc. in order to be processed correctly. Proofs of claim are deemed filed only when they are actually received by the Claims Agent and facsimiles will not be accepted. Blank Proof of Claim forms are available in the Clerk's Office of any bankruptcy court or from the Court's web site at <http://www.ilnb.uscourts.gov>. The Claims Agent in these cases can provide a proof of claim form if you cannot obtain one from your local bankruptcy court and can be reached at the address listed herein or the Debtor's private website at <http://www.bmccorp.net/wickes>.

On March 24, 2004, the Bankruptcy Court entered an Order in these Chapter 11 cases (the "Bar Date Order") establishing 4:00 p.m., prevailing Pacific Time, on **May 26, 2004**, as the general claims bar date (the "Bar Date"), except for governmental units for which the applicable bar date is 4:00 p.m., prevailing Pacific Time, on **July 17, 2004**. Except as described below, the Bar Date Order requires that any claims (as defined in the Bankruptcy Code) against any of the Debtors be filed with the Claims Agent.

Pursuant to the Bar Date Order, all persons or entities, including, without limitation, individuals, partnerships, corporations, estates, trusts, unions, indenture trustees and governmental units (individually, an "Entity") holding claims against the Debtor (whether secured, priority or unsecured) that arose on, or prior to January 20, 2004, are required to file proofs of claim by the applicable Bar Date.

The following Entities do not need to file a proof of claim on or before the Bar Date:

- a. any Entity that has already properly filed a proof of claim against the Debtor in accordance with the procedures set forth in this Bar Date Notice;
- b. any Entity (i) that agrees with the nature, classification and amount of such Claim set forth in the Schedules and (ii) whose Claim against the Debtor is not listed as "disputed," "contingent," or "unliquidated" in the Schedules;
- c. any Entity whose Claim against the Debtor previously has been allowed by, or paid pursuant to, an order of the Bankruptcy Court;
- d. any Entity asserting a Claim allowable under sections 503(b) and 507(a)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code as an administrative expense of the Debtor's Chapter 11 case;

- (1) any holder of the Senior Secured Notes (as defined below), or the Subordinated Unsecured Notes (as defined below), identified in subsections (1)-(2) of this paragraph below, to which Bank of New York NA and HSBC Bank USA are the indenture trustees (the "Indenture Trustees"), need not file a proof of claim; provided, however, that any such holders who wish to assert a Claim against the Debtor, other than Claims based upon, or arising from, the Senior Secured Notes or the Subordinated Unsecured Notes, must file a proof of claim on or prior to the applicable Bar Date. The Indenture Trustees for the Senior Secured Notes and the Subordinated Unsecured Notes shall file proofs of claim on behalf of the holders of the notes for all principal and interest due under such notes and all other amounts payable under the following indentures pursuant to which the notes were issued:

(1) the indenture, dated as of February 26, 2004 among Wickes Inc., as Issuer, and Bank of New York NA, as successor to HSBC Bank USA, as Trustee, pursuant to which \$42,833,000 aggregate principal amount of the Wickes Senior Secured Notes Due 2005 were issued (the "Senior Secured Notes"); and

(2) the Indenture, dated as of October 15, 1993 among Wickes Inc., as Issuer, and HSBC Bank USA, successor to Marine Midland Bank NA, as Trustee, pursuant to which \$100,000,000 aggregate principal amount of the Wickes Subordinated Unsecured Notes Due 2003 were issued (the "Subordinated Unsecured Notes").

An Entity should not file a proof of claim if such Entity does not have a Claim against the Debtor. **Receipt of this Bar Date Notice by an Entity does not mean that such Entity has a Claim or that the Debtor or the Bankruptcy Court believes such Entity has a Claim.** Moreover, neither the Debtor nor its attorneys nor the Bankruptcy Court can advise an Entity whether an Entity should file a proof of claim.

Any Entity holding an interest in the Debtor, which is based exclusively upon the ownership of common or preferred stock in such Debtor, or warrants, options, or rights to purchase, sell or subscribe to such a security or interest (any such interest being referred to as an "Interest") need not file a proof of interest on or before the applicable Bar Date; provided, however, that any Entity holding an Interest that wishes to assert a Claim against the Debtor that arises out of or relates to transactions in the Debtor's securities, including, but not limited to, claims for damages or rescission based on the purchase or sale of any such securities must file a proof of claim on or prior to the applicable Bar Date unless another exception set forth herein applies.

Any Entity whose Claims arose out of the rejection of an executory contract or an unexpired lease must file a proof of claim on or before the **later** of: (1) the date set by the Court in the Order authorizing the rejection of such contract or lease; (2) thirty (30) calendar days after the effective date of such rejection, as ordered by the Court, and (3) the Bar Date. Proofs of claim for any other claims that arose on, or prior to January 20, 2004 under a lease or contract must be filed by the applicable Bar Date.

CONSEQUENCES OF FAILURE TO FILE A PROOF OF CLAIM. Any Entity that is required to file a proof of claim, but that fails to do so in a timely manner, will be forever barred, estopped and enjoined from:

- a. asserting any Claim against the Debtor that such entity has that (i) is in an amount that exceeds the amount, if any, that is set forth in the Schedules as liquidated, undisputed and non-contingent, or (ii) is of a different nature or in a different classification (in either case an "Unscheduled Claim") than set forth in the Schedules; and
- b. voting upon, or receiving distributions under, any plan or plans of reorganization in this chapter 11 case in respect of an Unscheduled Claim.

If it is unclear from the Schedules whether your Claim is disputed, contingent or unliquidated as to amount or is otherwise properly listed and classified, you **must** file a proof of claim on or before the Bar Date. Any Entity that relies on the Schedules bears responsibility for determining that its Claim is accurately listed therein. A copy of the Schedules are on file with the Bankruptcy Court Clerk's Office located at 219 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois.

DISCHARGE OF DEBTS. Confirmation of a chapter 11 plan may result in a discharge of debts, which may include all or part of your debt. See § 1141(d) of the Bankruptcy Code. A discharge means that you may never try to collect the debt from the Debtor, except as provided in the plan.

CASE MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES. On January 29, 2004, the Bankruptcy Court entered an Order Establishing Certain Notice, Case Management and Administrative Procedures (the "Case Management Order"). The Case Management Order describes the notice procedures that apply in this Chapter 11 case. All parties who desire to participate in this Chapter 11 Case must follow the procedures set forth in the Case Management Order. Parties can obtain a copy of the Case Management Order (a) by accessing the Court's website at <http://www.ilnb.uscourts.gov/> or (b) by contacting Bankruptcy Management Corporation, the Official Noticing and Claims Agent for the Court, 1330 East Franklin Avenue, El Segundo, California 90245, Telephone (888) 909-0100, Facsimile (310) 640-8071, website <http://www.bmccorp.net/wickes>.

Dated: Chicago, Illinois
April 5, 2004.


FOR THE COURT: By: /s/
Clerk of the United States Bankruptcy Court
for the Northern District of Illinois

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT Northern District of Illinois	PROOF OF CLAIM
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In re:	Case Number:
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YOUR CLAIM IS SCHEDULED AS:

NOTE: This form should not be used to make a claim for an administrative expense arising after the commencement of the case. A "request" for payment of an administrative expense may be filed pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 503.

Name of Creditor and Address:  05708375028662 SECRETARY OF STATE 100 N MAIN ST PROVIDENCE, RI 02903-1325	<input type="checkbox"/> Check box if you are aware that anyone else has filed a proof of claim relating to your claim. Attach copy of statement giving particulars. <input type="checkbox"/> Check box if you have never received any notices from the bankruptcy court in this case. <input type="checkbox"/> Check box if this address differs from the address on the envelope sent to you by the court.
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If you have already filed a proof of claim with the Bankruptcy Court or BMC, you do not need to file again.

Creditor Telephone Number ()	CREDITOR TAX I.D. #:	ACCOUNT OR OTHER NUMBER BY WHICH CREDITOR IDENTIFIES DEBTOR:	Check here <input type="checkbox"/> if this claim <input type="checkbox"/> replaces <input type="checkbox"/> or <input type="checkbox"/> amends a previously filed claim dated: _____
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1. BASIS FOR CLAIM

<input type="checkbox"/> Goods sold	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal injury/wrongful death	<input type="checkbox"/> Retiree benefits as defined in 11 U.S.C § 1114(a)
<input type="checkbox"/> Services performed	<input type="checkbox"/> Taxes	<input type="checkbox"/> Wages, salaries, and compensation (Fill out below)
<input type="checkbox"/> Money loaned	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe briefly)	Your social security number: _____
		Unpaid compensation for services performed from: _____ to _____ (date) (date)

2. DATE DEBT WAS INCURRED:	3. IF COURT JUDGMENT, DATE OBTAINED:
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4. TOTAL AMOUNT OF CLAIM AS OF PETITION DATE: \$ _____ (unsecured)	\$ _____ (secured)	\$ _____ (unsecured priority)
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If all or part of your claim is secured or entitled to priority, also complete Item 5 or 6 below.
 Check this box if claim includes interest or other charges in addition to the principal amount of the claim. Attach itemized statement of all interest or additional charges:

5. SECURED CLAIM

Check this box if your claim is secured by collateral (including a right of setoff).

Brief description of collateral:

Real Estate
 Motor Vehicle
 Other _____

Value of collateral: \$ _____

Amount of arrearage and other charges at time case filed included in secured claim above, if any \$ _____

6. UNSECURED PRIORITY CLAIM

Check this box if you have an unsecured priority claim

Specify the priority of the claim:

Wages, salaries, or commissions (up to \$4,650*), earned within 90 days before filing of the bankruptcy petition or cessation of the Debtor's business, whichever is earlier - 11 U.S.C. § 507(a)(3)

Contributions to an employee benefit plan - 11 U.S.C. § 507(a)(4)

Up to \$2,100* of deposits toward purchase, lease, or rental of property or services for personal, family, or household use - 11 U.S.C. § 507(a)(6)

Alimony maintenance or support owed to a spouse, former spouse, or child - 11 U.S.C. § 507(a)(7)

Taxes or penalties owed to governmental units - 11 U.S.C. § 507(a)(8)

Other - Specify applicable paragraph of 11 U.S.C. § 507(a) _____

* Amounts are subject to adjustment on 4/1/01 and every 3 years thereafter with respect to cases commenced on or after the date of adjustment

7. CREDITS: The amount of all payments on this claim has been credited and deducted for the purpose of making this proof of claim.

8. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS: Attach copies of supporting documents, such as promissory notes, purchase orders, invoices, itemized statements of running accounts, contracts, court judgments, mortgages, security agreements, and evidence of perfection of lien. DO NOT SEND ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS if the documents are not available, explain. If the documents are voluminous, attach a summary.

9. DATE-STAMPED COPY: To receive an acknowledgment of your claim, please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope and an additional copy of this proof of claim.

The original of this completed proof of claim form must be sent by mail or hand delivered (FAXES NOT ACCEPTED) so that it is received on or before the Deadline to File a Proof of Claim as set forth in the "NOTICE OF COMMENCEMENT OF CASE UNDER CHAPTER 11 OF THE BANKRUPTCY CODE, MEETING OF CREDITORS, FIXING OF CERTAIN DATES, AND SETTING OF CERTAIN CASE MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES."

BY MAIL TO: Wickes Inc. c/o Bankruptcy Management Corporation P.O. BOX 1016 El Segundo, CA 90245-1016	BY HAND OR OVERNIGHT DELIVERY TO: Wickes Inc. c/o Bankruptcy Management Corporation 1330 East Franklin Avenue El Segundo, CA 90245
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THIS SPACE FOR COURT USE ONLY

DATE SIGNED:	SIGN and print the name and title, if any, of the creditor or other person authorized to file this claim (attach copy of power of attorney, if any).
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