

Controversies: BASF

- In December 2021, the region surrounding BASF's Wyandotte plant in Michigan was listed among the seven most polluted areas in the state in a study released by independent investigative journalism platform ProPublica. [People living in the vicinity of BASF's plant have 1.7 times higher cancer risk](#) than is considered acceptable by the US EPA.
- In December 2021, BASF's [footprint of cancer-causing air pollution](#) was larger than that of any other foreign-owned company in the United States. The company also had the fourth-largest toxic footprint among all companies operating in the country, according to an analysis by ProPublica.
- In November 2021, the area around BASF's chemical catalyst production factory in Elyria, Ohio was identified as a [hotspot for industrial air pollution](#), according to a report by ProPublica. The area's residents have more than 4 times the EPA's acceptable cancer risk over their lifetimes, the report states.
- In November 2021, Mid-County in Texas was identified as a prominent toxic hotspot with some spots within the area having 190 times EPA's acceptable cancer risk. [BASF Total Petrochemicals is identified as one of the top emitters of carcinogens in the Mid-County area.](#)
- In October 2021, [one contract worker died and another was injured](#) after they were exposed to an unidentified chemical substance at the BASF complex in Geismar, Louisiana.
- In October 2021, a New Jersey [federal judge approved a settlement of US \\$100 million in a long-pending asbestos lawsuit](#) ordering BASF and its law firm to pay approximately 20,000 class members between \$3500 and \$30,000 each.
- In June 2021, 57 [Texas High Plains wine grape growers filed suit](#) in Jefferson County District Court seeking hundreds of millions of dollars in damages from Bayer-Monsanto and BASF for selling a defective seed system featuring a highly volatile weedkiller that drifted and crippled scores of vineyards.
- In April 2021, emergency personnel — including a Hazmat team — had to be sent to a BASF chemical plant in Greenville, Ohio after a [potential leak was discovered](#) at the site. No injuries were reported.

- In March 2021, BASF declared force majeure for polyamide 6 shipments after a [fire broke out](#) in the PA6 production plant in Antwerp, Belgium. The fire occurred in a reactor building and was quickly extinguished, according to a company spokeswoman.
- In March 2021, a [fire broke out](#) at BASF's northern plant area in Ludwigshafen, Germany. About 650 kg of methyldiethanolamine and 50 kg of its breakdown product diethanolamine leaked into the Rhone via cooling water channels.
- BASF was [listed at 5 of USA's top 100 Air Polluters Index](#) prepared by the Political Economy Research Institute. Nearly 80% of the emissions were from just two facilities in Geismar, Louisiana and Elyria, Ohio. The index is based on TRI data for 2019.
- BASF [ranked 10 among USA's top 100 Water Polluters Index](#) prepared by the Political Economy Research Institute. More than half the toxic releases to water were from just one facility in Wyandotte, Michigan.
- BASF is on the list of top 10 polluting companies according to an index on air, water and greenhouse gas pollution released by the Political Economy Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts. BASF ranks number 10 on the [Toxic 100 Water list](#) and 7 on the [Toxic 100 Air list](#).
- In October 2020, BASF announced that it was set to close its Ludwigshafen-based imidazole plant, after it discovered that a small amount of the [material had leaked into nearby River Rhine](#). Imidazole can be harmful to both fish and humans if swallowed, with symptoms including burnt skin and eye damage.
- In 2019, BASF was one of the companies named by environmental charity BUND, a member of the European Environment Bureau, in its investigation where it found that a number of major chemical producers [broke important aspects of the EU's key chemical safety regulation REACH](#) by not completing important safety checks.
- In August 2017, BASF was implicated in one of the worst egg contamination scandals in Europe. Millions of bad eggs contaminated with the pesticide Fipronil were [recalled](#) after they were found tainted with the toxic chemical. The contamination initially surfaced in The Netherlands which is a major producer and exporter of eggs in Europe. Following the scandal, BASF declared that it would not re-apply for [EU authorisation](#) for some uses of pesticide Fipronil.
- In October 2016, a huge explosion and [fire at BASF's headquarters in Ludwigshafen](#), Germany, site killed three people, seriously injured 8 workers and slightly injured 17

others. Investigations revealed that the blast was a result of a [contractor error](#). A video of the incident is available [here](#).

- In March 2013, Shell and BASF agreed to settle with 884 workers exposed to pesticides at its plant in Paulinia, Sao Paulo for [620 million reais \(316 million USD\)](#).
- In February 2013, around [600 kg of Trilon B leaked out of a broken pipe bridge](#) into the river Rhine at BASF's headquarters in Ludwigshafen. Trilon B is a chelating agent used in the production of cleansers and detergents, and classified as hazardous to water.
- In June 2012, BASF was [fined more than 1 million USD](#) by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for violating the Clean Air Act at its chemical manufacturing facility in Wyandotte, Michigan.
- Furthermore, BASF has paid more than [63 million USD for 80 environmental violations between 2012 and 2021](#) according to the violation tracker project of Good Jobs First.