

Controversies: Bayer

- In December 2022, Bayer finalized a [\\$698 million settlement](#) with the U.S. state of Oregon to resolve claims that it polluted the environment with PCBs.
- In December 2022, Bayer CropScience announced that its crop protection formulations plant at Himatnagar in Gujarat had been [temporarily discontinued](#). The move came after the Gujarat Pollution Control Board directed for the closure of the plant after inspection.
- In December 2022, Burlington School District [sued Bayer over PCB contamination](#) in the city's high school. The district alleges that Monsanto, now taken over by Bayer, encouraged customers to use PCB mixtures in construction materials "despite knowing that this would directly introduce PCBs into surrounding air and other construction materials and onto nearby interior surfaces." Classes had to be relocated due to the discovery of elevated levels of airborne PCBs in the school building.
- In December 2022, 111 doctors in India submitted a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, [expressing concern about the planting of genetically modified \(GM\) mustard crops](#) following the recent approval of environmental clearance by the Indian authorities. The doctors raised concerns about the use of herbicides, particularly glufosinate ammonium, with GM mustard and the potential risks to human health.
- In November 2022, Bayer was ordered by the Lyon judicial court to pay a farmer [€11,135](#) for poisoning due to Monsanto herbicide.
- In November 2022, a US law firm obtained [\\$537.5 million](#) in a nationwide class action settlement with Monsanto and Bayer after the contamination of natural resources by PCBs. The class settlement provides a range of monetary benefits to government entity class members to remove PCBs from sediment.
- In November 2022, it was found [several studies have shown](#) that exposure to the glyphosate-based herbicide Roundup, a product by Bayer, could lead to pregnancy issues.
- In October 2022, a study published in the journal Scientific Reports found glyphosate-based herbicides, including products like Roundup by Bayer, to [induce antibiotic resistance](#) in hospital-acquired bacteria.
- In August 2022, Illinois' Attorney General Kwame Raoul [filed a lawsuit](#) against Monsanto, now Bayer, for the continued effects of PCB contamination as well as purposefully concealing the dangers the chemicals posed.

- In July 2022, a CDC study [found traces of the herbicide active ingredient glyphosate](#), a product by Bayer, in most urine samples of the 2,310 samples collected. 80% of adults and 87% of children had detectable levels of glyphosate in their urine.
- In July 2022, the US Court of Appeals in Missouri confirmed the liability of chemical giants Bayer-Monsanto and BASF for damage to a peach farmer's groves caused by the herbicide dicamba, leaving in place a judgment for nonpunitive damages.
- In July 2022, a federal appeals court in Montgomery, Alabama, [revived a lawsuit](#) by a Georgia man claiming Bayer's product Roundup caused his cancer.
- In April 2022, a [product liability class action lawsuit](#) was filed against Bayer in Pennsylvania Eastern District Court. In the lawsuit, Pogust Goodhead and other law firms allege that Bayer's "One A Day" prenatal supplements are contaminated with dangerous heavy metals and other ingredients.
- In March 2022, Bayer reached an [\\$80 million settlement](#) with Ohio to address environmental damage allegedly caused by PCBs produced by the company's Monsanto business.
- In March 2022, a majority of Camden residents [voted against the county purchasing a highly contaminated site](#), formerly operated by Union Carbide and Bayer, for setting up a Spaceport. One of the reasons to avoid such a purchase, they said, would oblige them to clean up and make deals with Bayer for the contaminated land.
- In March 2022, the city of Los Angeles [sued Monsanto \(now Bayer\)](#) and two other companies for past and future costs of dealing with contamination of waterways by PCBs.
- In March 2022, about 320 investors demanded around 2.2 billion euros (\$2.5 billion) from Bayer as part of a [possible class action lawsuit](#) for failing to disclose the full extent of liabilities associated with the takeover of Monsanto.
- In February 2022, the state of New Hampshire reached a [\\$25 million settlement](#) with Monsanto regarding PCB contamination of State waters and other State-owned property.
- In January 2022, a US district judge [restored a lawsuit](#) for compensation by Bayer-Monsanto and BASF, filed by 57 Texas vineyards, to the Texas state court where it was originally filed. The companies had sought to move the suit to a federal multidistrict litigation pending in Missouri. In the original lawsuit, the vineyards sought compensation for Bayer-Monsanto and BASF selling defective seed systems featuring a highly volatile weedkiller that moved off-target and crippled scores of vineyards.

- In December 2021, a [contractor employee was killed](#) in Germany during a cleaning job due to exposure to sodium hydroxide solution. The solution was mistaken for water which was meant to be used for high-pressure cleaning.
- In December 2021, [Bayer voluntarily recalled all unexpired Lotrimin AF and Tinactin spray products](#), distributed between September 2018 and September 2021, due to the presence of Benzene detected in some of the samples.
- In June 2021, six companies — including Bayer, Corteva and Syngenta — that sent pesticide-treated seeds to the AltEn ethanol plant [assumed the responsibility of cleaning up contaminated solid and liquid waste](#) at the now-defunct ethanol plant south of Mead, Nebraska.
- 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 May 2021, the Center for Biological Diversity sent Bayer and its predecessor Montrose an intent [to sue following a recent discovery of 500,000 barrels of now-banned DDT](#) in the Pacific Ocean off Southern California.
- In May 2021, the EU's top court upheld the EU's [partial ban on three insecticides, including Bayer CropScience's imidacloprid, linked to harming bees](#).
- In May 2021, the Central District Court of California approved settlement agreements involving four companies — including Bayer CropScience Inc. — who have agreed to [pay \\$77.6 million for cleaning up the contaminated groundwater](#) at the Montrose Superfund and Del Amo Superfund sites in Los Angeles County.
- In March 2021, the US EPA confirmed that it is investigating new data showing a mosquito killer made by Bayer had high concentrations of two well-known “forever chemicals” that have been linked to health problems.
- In March 2021, Canada's Health Ministry decided to limit the use of the insecticide clothianidin — produced by Bayer CropScience — that has been [linked to deaths of aquatic insects that are food for fish and birds](#).
- In November 2020, a [federal judge rejected Bayer's proposed 648 million USD settlement](#) of class-action litigation by cities and other claimants over subsidiary Monsanto's PCB contamination of water bodies across the US. The judge said the accord appeared “overly broad” because it could shield Bayer from future claims. He also argued that most of the

2,528 class members stood to receive “very modest” payments of just 15,000 to 30,000 USD.

- In October 2020, the state of [New Hampshire sued Bayer subsidiary Monsanto](#) for knowingly contaminating water bodies with cancer-causing PCBs, which have tainted fish and harmed loon populations across the state.
- In July 2020, Bayer [committed to pay more than 10 billion USD](#), primarily (8.8-9.6 Billion USD) to settle about 95,000 out of a total of 125,000 lawsuits that claim Bayer subsidiary Monsanto’s glyphosate-based herbicide Roundup caused plaintiffs’ cancers. Another 820 million USD were allocated towards lawsuits related to Monsanto’s contaminating bodies of water across the US with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), which the company produced until 1977. Finally, about 400 million USD were allocated to settle ongoing legal action involving destruction caused to fields and farms when dicamba – another Monsanto product – drifted onto crops not engineered to resist it.
- In June 2020, Bayer subsidiary [Monsanto agreed to pay Washington State 95 million USD](#) to settle a lawsuit over several decades of PCB contamination.
- In May 2020, [Washington D.C. sued Bayer subsidiary Monsanto](#), alleging it knowingly manufactured, promoted and sold toxic chemicals (PCBs) that polluted the Potomac River and its tributaries. D.C. has spent hundreds of millions of dollars trying to clear PCBs from the district and wanted Monsanto to cover the past, present and future expenses of that effort. The parties [settled](#) two months later, with Monsanto agreeing to pay 52 million USD to the District of Columbia.
- On 26 July 2019, a feature piece was published about the town of Anniston, Alabama, [heavily polluted with PCBs](#) from Swann Chemical Company’s and later Bayer subsidiary Monsanto’s production activity there between 1929 and 1971. According to the article, the town residents have long been – and are still being – disproportionately struck by cancer and other illnesses. The EPA tested the soil, water, and blood of the people in Anniston and was alarmed to find the highest recorded levels of PCBs in the US.
- In June 2019, in a first-of-its-kind lawsuit in Australia, a gardener [sued Bayer’s Monsanto](#) over a cancer link following the jury verdicts in the US. Self-employed gardener, Michael Ogalirolo, 54, said he was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin lymphoma after using Bayer subsidiary Monsanto’s Roundup for more than 20 years.
- On 30 May 2019, Los Angeles County sued Monsanto-Bayer, seeking payment for reducing [PCB contamination](#) in dozens of bodies of water. Before the merger with Bayer, Monsanto had already spent almost 1 billion USD to settle past PCB claims.

- On 13 May 2019, a California jury awarded [2 billion USD in punitive damages and 55 million USD in compensatory damages](#) to a couple who claimed Bayer AG's glyphosate-based Roundup weed killer caused their cancer, in the largest US jury verdict to date against the company in litigation over the chemical.
- On 25 March 2019, Bayer and Johnson & Johnson agreed to settle more than 25,000 lawsuits in the United States in which plaintiffs alleged injuries and death due to taking prescription blood thinner Xarelto. Since both the companies jointly developed the drug they agreed to share the [775 million USD settlement](#) amount.
- In August 2018, a [California jury awarded 289 million USD](#) to a former groundskeeper who said the popular weed killer Roundup gave him terminal cancer.
- Between [2018 and 2022, Bayer and its subsidiaries paid more than 1.5 billion USD in penalties for environmental violations](#), according to the violation tracker project of Good Jobs First.