

Controversies: BASF

- 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 is ranking 10 on the [Toxic 100 Water list](#) and 7 on the [Toxic 100 Air list](#).
- On 15 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.
- On 17 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 **4.7 million USD** for **69 environmental violations** between **2011 and 2020** according to the violation tracker project of Good Jobs First.