

## Controversies: Bayer

- In December 2021, a [contractor employee was killed](#) during a cleaning job due to exposure to sodium hydroxide solution.
- 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 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 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 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 clothiandin — produced by Bayer CropScience — that have 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 [reached a settlement](#) 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 were 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 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.
- In April 2017, West Virginia State University filed a lawsuit against Dow Chemical and Bayer, accusing them of [polluting the groundwater](#) under its campus with three likely carcinogens: 1,4-dioxane, 1,2-dichloroethane, and chloroform. At the time of writing, the case has [still not been settled](#).
- In September 2015, Bayer committed to pay [5.6 million USD to resolve violations](#) related to an [explosion that killed two employees](#) in 2008 at the company's West Virginia facility. About 4.2 million USD of the settlement were earmarked to improve emergency preparedness and response at the facility and protect the nearby Kanawha River, with another 452,000 USD directed toward implementing safety measures at Bayer's chemical storage facilities across the United States. Four years prior to the settlement, the Chemical Safety & Hazard Investigation Board (CSB) [released a report](#) concluding that the accident was caused by the company's decision to hasten the restart of the pesticide production process and bypass safety controls.
- In July 2015, the cities of San Jose, California, and Spokane, Washington, [filed lawsuits seeking damages](#) from Bayer's subsidiary-to-be Monsanto over its PCB pollution – two of many cities, counties and states to sue Monsanto over contaminating water bodies across the US with the toxic chemicals. Neither lawsuit disclosed the amount of damages sought, but Spokane officials estimated that the cost of treating the Spokane River exceeded 100 million USD.
- On 9 May 2013, several hundred people were evacuated from the suburb of Lubbock, Texas, after a cracked 1,400 kg tank at the Bayer Crop Science facility [leaked a potentially dangerous chemical](#). The tank contained hydrogen chloride, which reacts with moisture in the atmosphere to form hydrochloric acid when released. No injuries were reported.

- Between 2012 and 2021, Bayer and its subsidiaries paid more than 306 million USD in penalties for 25 environmental violations, according to the [violation tracker project](#) of Good Jobs First.