

Controversies: Ecolab

- In August 2022, a citizen and river user filed a suit against Ecolab in a California district court alleging that its City of Industry, California, facility was [discharging polluted wastewater into the San Gabriel River](#) in violation of environmental norms.
- In January 2022, [five workers exposed to Ecolab's corrosive cleanser Oxycide](#) filed a lawsuit against their employer, Sacramento, California-based Sutter Health.
- In January 2022, [Ecolab ranked 14 in the Toxic 100 Air Polluters Index](#), with its Nalco facility in Fresno, Texas contributing to 99% of the company's air toxicity load.
- In October 2021, the [US EPA levied a USD 214,507 penalty](#) from Ecolab over violations of hazardous waste and pesticide laws related to a 2019 fire.
- In August 2021, residents near the port of Wilmington, North Carolina [objected to Ecolab's proposal to fumigate](#) export-bound logs with methyl bromide and phosphine owing to the chemical's toxicity and ozone-depleting potential.
- In February 2020, a [class action lawsuit was filed](#) against Ecolab in Minnesota, seeking to represent a nationwide class of current or former hospital housekeepers. Three plaintiffs alleged that they had sustained personal injuries from using the company's cleaning products. Several injuries from use of the products have been reported, including burning of the eyes, nose and throat, nasal problems, coughing, headaches, dizziness, nausea, nose bleeds, asthma-like symptoms, respiratory irritation, skin burns, rashes, and other reactions affecting pulmonary and respiratory functions. Ecolab was later [accused of hiding the health risks](#) of their disinfectants.
- In December 2019, a city worker and an Ecolab employee were offloading a tanker at a wastewater treatment plant in Martinsburg, West Virginia, when "a [dangerous chemical reaction](#)" occurred. The chemical reaction caused a blue haze and bleach-like fumes to settle throughout the city, resulting in mass evacuation of Martinsburg's downtown area and nearby neighbourhoods.
- In November 2018, the prosecution office of Liu He District, Jiangsu Province, China brought charges alleging violation of environmental laws relating to waste disposal against the company's Nalco subsidiary. The incident was reported in the Ecolab Corporate Sustainability Report 2018.
- Between 2018 and 2022, [Ecolab and its subsidiaries paid more than half a million USD in fines for environmental violations](#), according to the violation tracker project of Good Jobs First.