EPA Refuses To Ban Chlorpyrifos – Linked To Neurological Problems With Children

Due to concerns that the insecticide can harm the brain and nervous system, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) banned chlorpyrifos for household uses in 2000 but agricultural companies are still allowed to spray it on our food.

In August of 2015 public health groups petitioned the agency to reconsider their decision, stating the pesticide should be banned from agriculture. In August 2018, a federal court ordered the EPA to review a petition. The EPA has reviewed the decision and decided not to ban chlorpyrifos.

> *EPA has determined that their objections must be denied because the data available are not sufficiently valid, complete or reliable to meet petitioners' burden to present evidence demonstrating that the tolerances are not safe."*
>
> *CNN*

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> *It is a tragedy that this administration sides with corporations instead of children's health. But this is only a setback. Lawmakers in states like Hawai'i and New York are now showing the rest of the country that banning this dreadful pesticide is not only possible, but inevitable."*
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> *Attorney Patti Goldman of Earthjustice – represents the groups that took the issue to court*

Chlorpyrifos is a neurotoxic pesticide that kills a number of pests including insects and worms. By inhibiting the acetylcholinesterase enzyme it destroys the nervous systems of insects. The enzyme also regulates nerve impulses in the human body. Acute poisoning causes convulsions, respiratory paralysis, and sometimes death. Chlorpyrifos is one of the pesticide most frequently linked to pesticide poisonings.

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Chlorpyrifos is associated with neurodevelopmental harms in children. Prenatal exposures to chlorpyrifos can lead to "lower birth weight, reduced IQ, loss of working memory, attention disorders, and delayed motor development."