

Trump's EPA Rejects Proposed Pesticide Ban

The Environmental Protection Agency has rejected a proposal to ban the use of chlorpyrifos, a pesticide that is already classified as moderately hazardous and that has been linked to neurological issues in young children. This is not the first time the EPA has blocked a ban of this pesticide, with Scott Pruitt denying a petition to ban the pesticide back in 2017. These rejections are contrary to recommendations from the EPA's own experts.

Chlorpyrifos has been banned in Europe since 2008. States in the U.S. are also working towards banning the pesticide. Hawaii voted to ban the chemical in 2018, California Governor Gavin Newsom has proposed 5.7 billion towards finding safer alternatives to chlorpyrifos, and the New York state legislature has passed a bill banning all use of the pesticide by December of 2021.

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Bad Guy

Chlorpyrifos has been linked to several health issues, the most egregious being neurological conditions in small children. A study conducted by researchers from Columbia University followed measured chlorpyrifos levels in mother's umbilical cords and gave their children intelligence tests later in childhood. Higher chlorpyrifos levels corresponded with decreased mental development. The chemical has also been linked to attention deficit disorder, lower IQs, and other developmental, altered thyroid levels, and learning disorders in children and lung cancer and immune disorders in adults.

The chemical has also been linked repeatedly to the struggles

facing pollinators, specifically bees. Honeybees exposed to chlorpyrifos experience memory and learning deficits, making them less effective pollinators.

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Ignoring Science

Chlorpyrifos is toxic. The Obama administration made efforts to ban the pesticide. Yet Trump and his administration seem determined to treat this like they do other Obama era policies – destroy it. Unfortunately, the president's destructive behavior is frequently a detriment to the health and safety of the country.

Sources:

- *Trump administration won't ban pesticide tied to childhood brain damage* – The Guardian
- *New York Passes Bill to Ban Dow's Brain-Damaging Pesticide Chlorpyrifos* – Friends of the Earth
- *Hawaii Becomes First State To Ban Widely-Used Pesticide Found To Be Harmful To Kids* – HuffPost
- *Widely Used Pesticide in Food Production Damages Children's Brain* – Beyond Pesticides
- *EWG: 'Just because chemical agribusiness wants to use a brain-damaging pesticide doesn't mean they should'* – Environmental Working Group
- *Bees 'dumb down' after ingesting tiny doses of the pesticide chlorpyrifos* – Science Daily