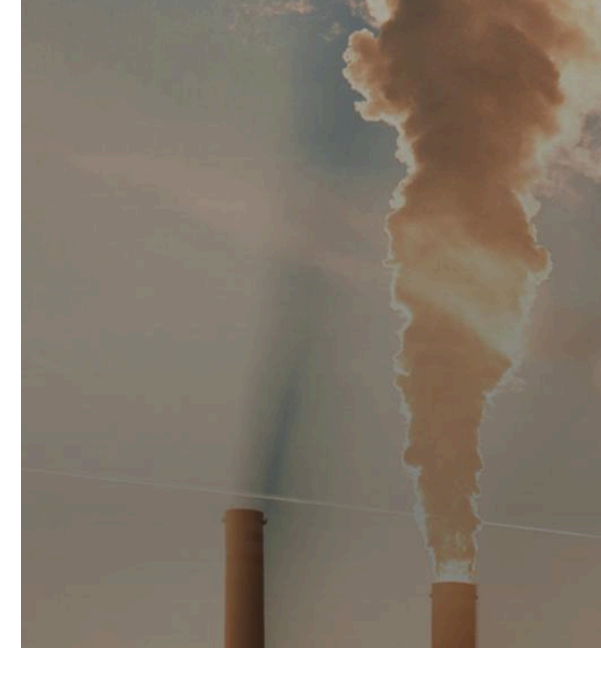




Top Three Rubbertown Polluters



Blog for Air Justice

Rubbertown is a **hotspot for chemical pollution**, with 13 facilities in the area. The pollution emitted from these facilities negatively impacts the health of those who live and work in the area, causing health problems such as asthma, headaches, blurry vision, nausea, heart disease, diabetes, and cancer.

One of the first thing people who learn about Rubbertown want to know is **"who are biggest offenders?,"** or who are the main polluters in Rubbertown. According to the Environmental Protection Agency's Toxic Release Inventory, three companies stand out: Chemours, Clariant, and Hexion.



Top 3 Rubbertown Polluters

Rubbertown is a hotspot for large industrial polluters. Who are the companies doing the polluting?

Information sourced from <https://www.epa.gov/toxics-release-inventory-tri-program>

#1: Chemours Plant

What is made?

Chemical compounds like fluoropolymers and refrigerants



Who is in charge?

Mark E. Newman, President, CEO, and COO

Where do we use what they make?

- Airplanes
- Cars
- Phones
- Nonstick Pans
- Plastics

...and more



What do they emit?

- Chloroform
- Chlorine
- Hydrogen Fluoride



Why do we care?

Byproducts cause cancer and other harmful health effects

#2: Clariant Plant

What do they emit?

- Nitrogen Oxide
- Hexavalent chromium
- Nickel

Emissions cause chronic breathing problems, cancer, headaches, and more

What is made?

Chemicals that make plastic, or polypropylene catalysts



Who is in charge?

Kenneth Golder, President and CEO

How much do they make?

\$1.01 Billion

Where do we use their products?

- Packaging
- Electrical Equipment
- Car Parts
- Household Appliances



#3: Hexion Plant

What do they emit?

- Phenol
- Methanol
- Formaldehyde



What are they known for?

\$350,000 in fines from 2018-19 for excess and unreported emissions



What do they make?

Chemicals that make adhesives and resins

Who is in charge?

Gary Buckley, Manager

What are the health effects?

- Dizziness
- Cancer
- Blurred Vision
- Nausea
- Breathing Problems



1. Chemours

Although Chemours has only been operating in this location since 2016, a polluting plant has been there since 1941. Chemours, a subsidiary of DuPont, manufactures fluoropolymers and refrigerants, chemicals that go into everyday products such as cars, phones, airplanes, plastics, nonstick pans, refrigerators, and many more.

Chemours has recently been in the news for its HFC-23 emissions. This chemical, called a "super-pollutant," is **14,600 times stronger than carbon dioxide** when it comes to contributing to climate change. In order to lessen emissions of HFC-23, however, Chemours is seeking to increase its emissions of chloroform, chlorine, hydrogen fluoride, and hydrochloric acid—chemicals that hurt the health of people living nearby.

2. Clariant

The Clariant plant in Rubbertown makes polypropylene catalysts, or chemicals that aid in the production of certain plastics. These plastics then go into common products such as packaging, electrical equipment, car parts, chairs, pipes, household appliances, etc.

Clariant has a history with inaccuracies in emission reports, leaving community members feeling uncertain about who they can trust when talking about these dangerous chemicals.

3. Hexion

Hexion's Louisville location, called "Bakelite," makes adhesives and resins. During this process, the facility emits chemical pollution in the form of phenol, methanol, and formaldehyde, a carcinogen. Hexion has been noted for its repeat violations, which include unreported emissions of formaldehyde and employees muting alarms.

For More Information:

See Clariant's Notices of Violation: [2019](#) and [2022](#)

See Hexion's Notices of Violation: 2019 [#1](#) and [#2](#)