

EPA Proposed Ban on Chrysotile Asbestos Poses Severe Risks to U.S. Economy and Environment



The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed to eliminate chrysotile asbestos used by chlor-alkali manufacturers to produce chlorine, a move that would have profound and broad consequences for millions of Americans across the country. EPA's two-year timetable could cause immediate hardships including severe shortages of chlorine, supply chain disruptions, obstacles to drinking water disinfection processes, dramatic price increases, and broad impacts to economic development opportunities. Industries such as public utilities, construction, development, manufacturing, trade unions, and community centers would be impacted if the two-year phaseout of chrysotile asbestos is enacted.

Local officials and community leaders nationwide have [commented publicly](#) on the negative impacts the EPA proposal would have on America's economic and environmental sustainability.

ARIZONA

Osborn School District Governing Board

"Unfortunately, the proposed timeline to [remove chrysotile asbestos from the chlorine production process] would lead to clean water supply issues and negatively affect underserved communities across the country."

League of United Latin American Citizens

"If the EPA moves forward with the proposed timeline to ban chrysotile asbestos from the chlorine production process too quickly, it will likely result in a chlorine shortage that would overwhelm our struggling water treatment facilities."

COLORADO

Town of Rangely

"By removing chrysotile asbestos from chlorine production over a short two-year period, the EPA is jeopardizing the economic stability of nearly every major industry."

Santa Fe Business Improvement District

"By banning chrysotile asbestos for chlorine production over two short years, however, the EPA would be making a huge mistake that could threaten access to clean water for countless states and their communities."

GEORGIA

Greater Eastside Chamber of Commerce

"EPA's rapid ban of chrysotile asbestos for use in chlorine production would further amplify the supply chain issues our economy is currently facing. Companies will be forced to increase their prices to account for these additional costs and inflation that's currently at historic highs."

LOUISIANA

State Senator

"EPA's rapid two-year implementation of a ban on chrysotile asbestos would only worsen the existing supply chain issues the nation has been facing for some time now and the resulting inflation."

NEVADA

Las Vegas Valley Water District

“Under the EPA’s proposed accelerated timeline, we face the risk of creating a much bigger problem in the chlorine supply by abruptly pulling the plug on 33% of production. This would lead to a crisis ... whether it is safe to drink the water.”

Southern Nevada Water Authority

“By rushing to ban chrysotile asbestos, the EPA is putting the economic stability of nearly every major manufacturing industry at risk.”

NEW HAMPSHIRE

New Hampshire Building Trades

“The two-year timeline ... will have a series of unintended consequences which will negatively impact our workforce and economy by increasing costs that could lead to lost work and layoffs for workers.”

New Hampshire Water Works Association

“The proposed ban ... will eliminate a third of the country’s chlorine production, further raise chemical costs that have nearly doubled since 2021 and reduce the availability of a critical water treatment chemical.”

NORTH CAROLINA

Hillsborough Town Commissioner

“[EPA’s proposed timetable] would lead to a chlorine shortage that will overwhelm our water treatment facilities and would harm their ability to consistently provide clean drinking water to the country.”

PENNSYLVANIA

Team Clean Inc.

“[EPA’s proposal] will inadvertently lead to more supply chain issues, delays with products, and price hikes that will disproportionately impact Black business owners, particularly mom-and-pop shops that are the backbone of our economy.”

Police Athletic League of Philadelphia

“A swift ban on chrysotile asbestos will hamper the nation’s chlorine supply, which is already at a low point. If prices for chlorine rise—as would be normal for a dwindling resource—most of our underfunded community pools won’t be able to pay for upkeep.”
