



The Worst Breaches in Business Ethics



1

Toyota Ignored Safety

In 2010, Toyota ignored information about safety and delayed investigating possible recalls. In 2009, they learned about sticking pedals and faulty brakes; instead of addressing the issue, they added side airbags. In some cases, Toyota faced accusations of hiding evidence for hundreds of cases involving death and rollovers, putting their drivers and passengers at risk.



2

Apple Uses Slave Labor

Apple relies on child slave labor that is working in dangerous conditions, for ten hours each day while being exposed to cancerous vapors. The conditions at the manufacturing plant Foxconn are bad enough that they had to install “anti-suicide nets.” The workers live in horrible conditions and experience unreasonable workloads and humiliating discipline. Apple has reduced some of their work with Foxconn, but they still rely primarily on them. Apple also used Irish tax loopholes to avoid some taxes.



3

Monsanto Relies on Toxic Chemicals

Monsanto created Agent Orange, a chemical weapon used in Vietnam that still affects the population today. Currently, the company works in GMO foods and owns the vast majority of seed patents (more than 95 percent). They sue small farmers aggressively and work to discredit dissenters by using fake online profiles.



4

Philip Morris Advertised To Kids

The tobacco giant Philip Morris has been considered unethical for years as a great deal of advertising from them targets kids. Despite stricter regulations, Philip Morris still prominently places ads and products in magazines, convenience stores, and delis. They continue to try to create the image of smokers being cool and are considered the biggest reason for young smokers.



5

Chevron Spills Toxic Waste

Chevron has attempted to avoid millions of dollars' worth of taxes plus 18 years' worth of unethical business practices. When they dumped billions of gallons worth of toxic waste into the Ecuadorian rainforest, they were sued and tried to deny their involvement even though there was plenty of solid evidence. They even faked a letter from Ecuador's ambassador that claimed to dismiss the lawsuit and worked to discredit the judge, delaying the suit for two years.

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