

# Supply Chain Explorer

By the Emerging Technology Observatory

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## Etching and cleaning tools

Etching tools create permanent patterns in chips: after photolithography removes portions of a photoresist deposited on a wafer in a precise pattern, etching tools etch that pattern into a permanent substrate below. Cleaning tools then remove etched materials.

The United States and Japan are the main producers of etch and clean equipment; South Korea and China are also significant suppliers.