

Largest Manufacturer of Ghost Guns Closes Down

An article published in [*The Trace* \(August 30, 2024\)](#) reported that Polymer 80, the country's largest manufacturer of kits for making homemade, untraceable "ghost guns," has closed. The Nevada-based company helped to create the market for homemade firearms by selling kits with the parts, tools, and instructions for people to build handguns and AR-15-style rifles – with no background checks. These kit-made guns quickly began to show up at crime scenes, attracting notice from law enforcement, national gun violence prevention organizations, and policy makers at the national and state levels. According to The Trace article, Los Angeles police recovered more than 4,200 Polymer80 ghost guns between January 2020 and February 2023. In response, a number of states, including Colorado in 2023, and the District of Columbia have passed laws that make these unserialized, untraceable guns illegal. Eric Tirschwell, director of law for Everytown for Gun Safety, stated "The effort to address the illegal use of ghost guns was a combination of litigation [by cities and survivors resulting in Polymer 80 paying millions of dollars in settlements and penalties], a push for rule making by the ATF, and states and cities passing laws cracking down on ghost gun sales." Eventually, those combined efforts were successful in forcing Polymer80 to close its doors. A challenge to ATF's ghost gun rule, requiring sellers of ghost gun kits to add serial numbers to some parts and conduct background checks, is now before the Supreme Court, and the outcome

[could](#) jeopardize the states' restrictions. The Court is scheduled to hear arguments on October 8.