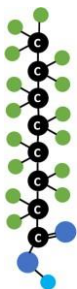


PFAS Explained:



Scientific studies have shown that exposure to some PFAS in the environment is linked to harmful health effects in humans and animals.



What are PFAS?

PFAS are manufactured chemicals that have been used in industry and consumer products since the 1940s.

Because of their widespread use and their persistence in the environment, many PFAS are found in the blood of people and animals all over the world. There are thousands of different PFAS, some of which have been more widely used and studied than others.



Are PFAS safe?

Research is ongoing to determine how exposure to different PFAS can lead to a variety of health effects. Studies have shown that exposure to certain levels of PFAS may lead to:



Cancer Effects

Increased risk of some cancers, including prostate, kidney, and testicular cancers.



Weight Effects

Increased cholesterol levels and/or risk of obesity.



Immune Effects

Reduced ability of the body's immune system to fight infections.



Developmental Effects

Low birth weight, accelerated puberty, bone variations, or behavioral changes.



Reproductive Effects

Decreased fertility or increased high blood pressure in pregnant women.

The more we learn about PFAS chemicals, the more we learn that certain PFAS can cause health risks even at very low levels. This is why anything we can do to reduce PFAS in water, soil, and air, can have a meaningful impact on health. EPA is taking action to reduce PFAS in water and in the environment. You can also take action if you remain concerned about your own risk.

EPA makes frequent updates to its website. To learn more about PFAS go to <https://www.epa.gov/pfas>.



Where Are PFAS Found?



Most people in the United States have been exposed to some PFAS. People can be exposed to PFAS by touching, drinking, eating, or breathing in materials containing PFAS. PFAS may be present in:



Drinking Water

Drinking water contaminated by other sources of PFAS.



Waste Sites

Soil and water at or near landfills, disposal sites, and hazardous waste sites.



Fire Extinguishing Foam

Used in training and emergency response events at airports and firefighting training facilities.



Facilities

Chrome plating, electronics, and certain textile and paper manufacturers that produce or use PFAS.



Consumer Products

Stain- or water-repellent, or non-stick products, paints, sealants, and some personal care products.



Food Packaging

Grease-resistant paper, microwave popcorn bags, pizza boxes, and candy wrappers.



Biosolids

Fertilizer from wastewater treatment plants used on agricultural lands can affect ground and surface water.



Food

Fish caught from water contaminated by PFAS and dairy products from livestock exposed to PFAS.

Very little of the PFAS in water can get into your body through your skin, so, showering, bathing, and washing dishes in water containing PFAS are unlikely to significantly increase your risk.

EPA's researchers and partners across the country are working hard to understand how much PFAS people are exposed to and how.



EPA makes frequent updates to its website. To learn more about PFAS go to <https://www.epa.gov/pfas>.