

PFAS: Toxic Forever Chemicals

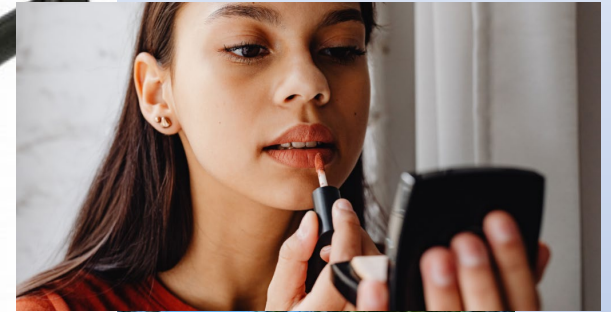
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PFAS- a global problem

- Estimates >12,000 different variations
- “Forever chemicals” =fluorine-carbone bond=don’t break down in the environment
- PFOA and PFOS—early versions, “long chain,” most widely studied, phased out in U.S but found in imported goods
- Thousands more variations in commerce today

PFAS chemical uses



Exposure routes

- **Indoor air and dust:** When PFAS are used in products such as stain-proofing for furniture and carpets, or waterproofing for clothing, these items release the chemicals over time into air and dust.¹
- **Drinking water:** Chemical plants, industrial plants, firefighting foam, landfills, and spreading of sludge have led to widespread contamination of drinking water in the U.S.² Today, millions of U.S. residents are served by a drinking water source contaminated with PFAS.³
- **Consumer and workplace products:** PFAS use in cleaners, building materials, cosmetics, personal care products, and specialty products such as ski wax can lead to direct exposure from product use.⁴
- **Food:** PFAS can build up in crops, fish, and livestock, ultimately contaminating the food we eat. In addition, when PFAS are used in food packaging such as bags, sandwich wrappers, and [takeout containers](#), they can migrate to our food.

Environmental Impacts

- Water contamination
- Soil and crop contamination
- Bioaccumulates and found up through the food chain
- No effective way to clean up or destroy PFAS in the environment



Health impacts

- Kidney and testicular cancers
- Reproductive disorders
- Low birth weight and size
- Liver damage, high cholesterol, links to liver cancer
- Thyroid disruption
- Impaired immunity to vaccines
- Ulcerative colitis

What's happening in CT and what's next?

- Ban on AFFF and PFAS in food packaging
- Take back program for AFFF
- Next steps:
 - Comprehensive bans to “turn off the tap”
 - Monitoring of water sources and at risk sites
 - Public disclosure and remediation