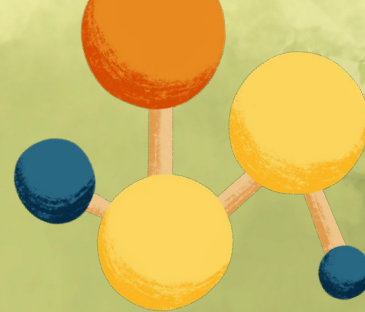


# PFAS411

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES ON PFAS CHEMICALS



## What Are PFAS?



Recent news headlines have been sounding the alarm about manmade “forever” chemicals called PFAS (per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances). But what are these chemical substances, and why should consumers be concerned about them?

Known for their resistance to heat, oil, stains, and water, PFAS have been in commercial use since the 1940s and are abundant in today's society. They are found in many common household products, from non-stick cookware to cleaners, clothing, shampoo, and dental floss. Although the U.S. has banned some types of PFAS, there are still more than 5,000 types in use.

Due to the widespread use of PFAS, scientists have found these troublesome pollutants all over the globe, in air, soil, animals, and people. With their strong chemical bonds, PFAS can build up in the environment and our bodies over time, harming the planet and our health. Studies have shown exposure to PFAS may lead to increased cancer risk, developmental delays in children, and interference with the body's natural hormones and immune response.

Unfortunately, once PFAS enter the environment, there's no easy way to eliminate them. Although there is still much we don't know about managing PFAS pollution, one thing is certain: The best solution is prevention at the source, by keeping PFAS out of products and the environment to begin with. The good news is California is taking important steps to limit the use of toxic PFAS chemicals in many everyday products where safer alternatives are available. This will go a long way to reducing the flow of PFAS into our homes and environment.

Watch this space to learn more.