

PFAS: What It is, What It Comes From, Where It's Found, & Its Dangers

Arlene Blum PhD Research Associate in Chemistry, UC Berkeley Executive Director, Green Science Policy Institute October 2020





Brominated Tris Flame Retardant

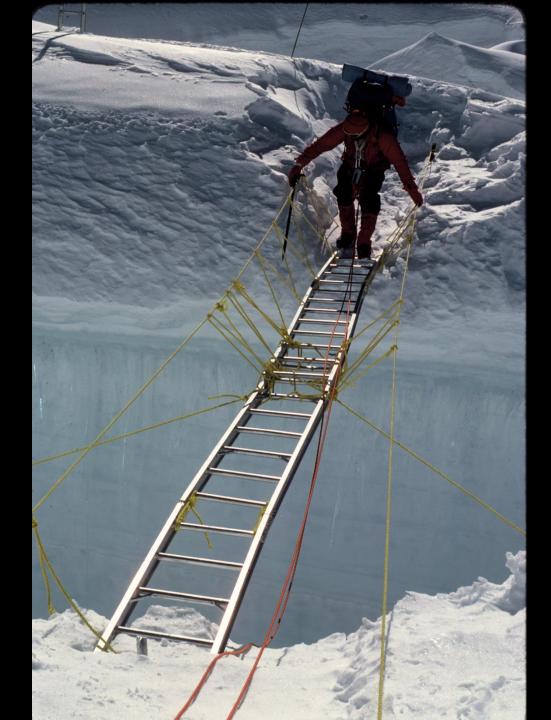
Tris (2,3-dibromopropyl) phosphate

- In children's sleepwear 1975 to 1977
- Up to 10% of the weight of fabric.
- In children's urine
- Mutagen and possible carcinogen









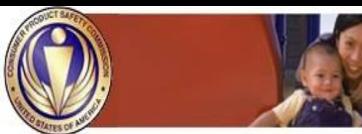




Flame-Retardant Additives as Possible Cancer Hazards

The main flame retardant in children's pajamas is a mutagen and should not be used.

Arlene Blum and Bruce N. Ames



U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

TRIS-Treated Children's Garments Banned

April , 1977

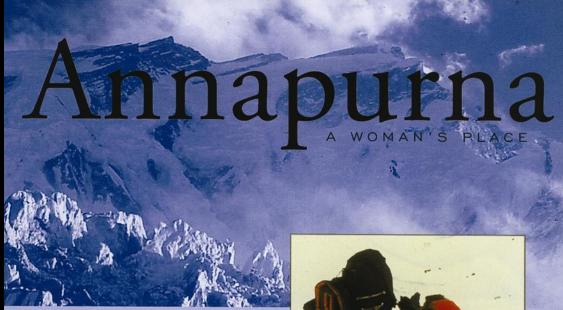
Chlorinated Tris replaced Brominated Tris

- Removed from pajamas in 1978
- Used in furniture until 2012









The dramatic story of the first American ascent of one of the world's highest peaks



ARLENE BLUM

20TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

With a new Preface and Afterword by the author

Arlene Blum

BREAKING TRAIL A Climbing Life

By the bestselling author of ANNAPURNA: A WOMAN'S PLACE

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WORMMON PAPER

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Reasonable



Fluorin ·IVIKUIIIItiiit Laurel A. Science & Technology Margaret

¹Silent Sp Detection of Poly- and Perfluoroalkyl Substances (PFASs) in U.S. 1C aliforn Drinking Water Linked to Industrial Sites, Military Fire Training Areas, Depart and Wastewater Treatment Plants Enviro

Article

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United States

University of California at Berkeley, Berkeley, California 94720, United States

"Silent Spring Institute, Newton, Massachusetts 02460, United States

[@]University of Rhode Island, Narragansett, Rhode Island 02882, United States Green Science Policy Institute, Berkeley, California 94705, United States

 California Department of Toxic Substances Control, 1001 I Street, Sacram Green Science Policy Institute, Berkeley, California 94705, United States) nto, California 95814, United States (For

Colorado School of Mines, 1500 Illinois Street, Golden, Colorado 80401, United States

Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: Drinking water contamination with poly- and perfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) poses risks to the developmental, immune, metabolic, and endocrine health of summers. We present a spatial analysis of 2013-2015 ional drinking water PFAS concentrations from the U.S. irronmental Protection Agency's (US EPA) third Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR3) program. The mber of industrial sites that manufacture of use these ds, the number of military fire t



Research

Education



Retreats

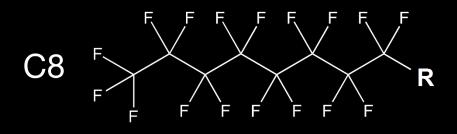
Policy & Purchasing Change

U.S. Toxic Substances Control Act (1976)

- 62,000 previous chemicals "grandfathered"
- 23,000 new chemicals
 - 85% have no health data
 - 67% have no data at all

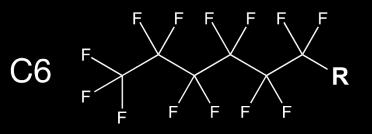


"Regrettable" Substitution



Long chain:

- Extreme persistence
- Bioaccumulation
- Toxicity

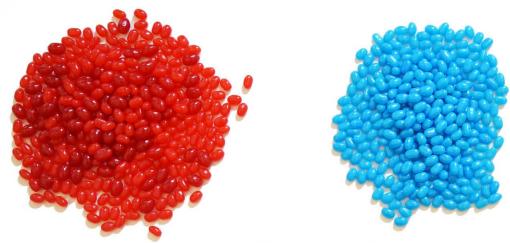


Short chain:

- Extreme persistence
- Build-up in plants
- Suspected toxicity
- More mobile
- Clean up more difficult
- Harder to measure & monitor

EVALUATING TENS OF THOUSANDS OF INDIVIDUAL CHEMICALS IS UNWORKABLE

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BUT ADDRESSING SIX GROUPS OF CHEMICALS OF CONCERN IS MANAGEABLE

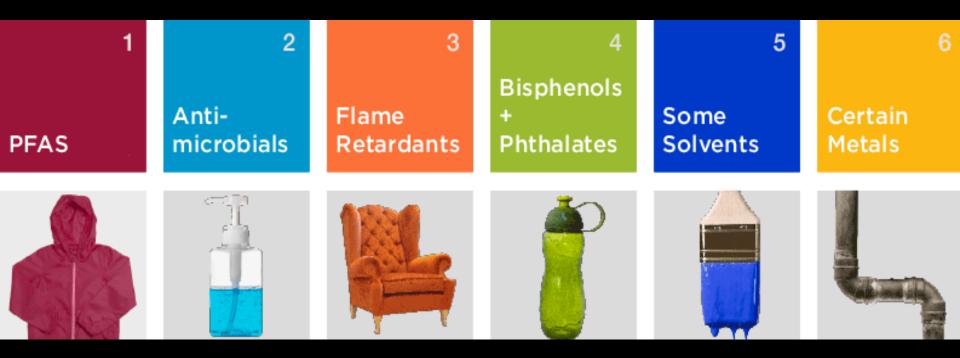






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Six Classes Videos



www.SixClasses.org

Healthier products, healthier people in four minutes!

Is it necessary?

Is it worth it?

Is there a safer alternative?

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From Surfer Shorts to Surgical Drapes: The concept of essential use

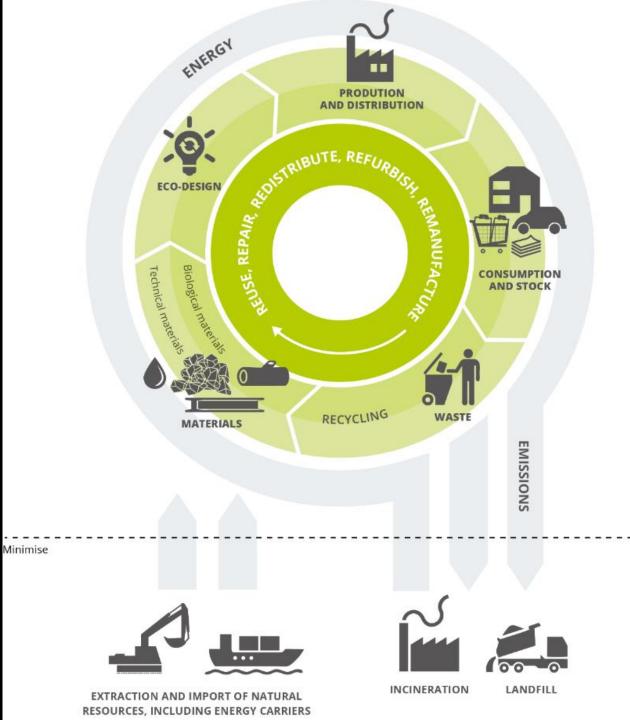


Ian Cousins, Gretta Goldenman, et al., June 17, 2019

Category	Definition	PFAS examples
1	Uses that are not essential for health and safety, and the functioning of society. The use of substances is driven by market opportunity.	Dental floss, water repellent surfer shorts, ski waxes
2	Uses regarded as essential by society because they perform important functions, but where alternatives have now been developed that have equivalent functionality.	Most uses of AFFFs, certain water- resistant textiles
3	Uses considered essential for health or safety or for important purposes <i>and</i> for which alternatives are not yet established. There should be a constant search for alternatives to move these uses into Category 2	Certain medical devices, occupational protective clothing

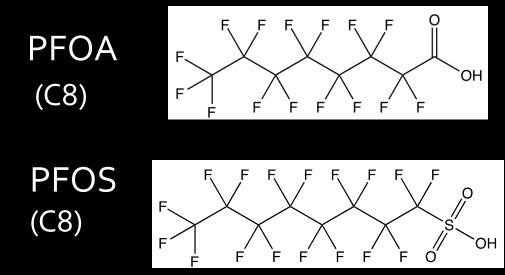
For a Circular Economy, Avoid Hazardous Substances

Products with toxics should be land filled or destroyed.



PFAS

(Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances)





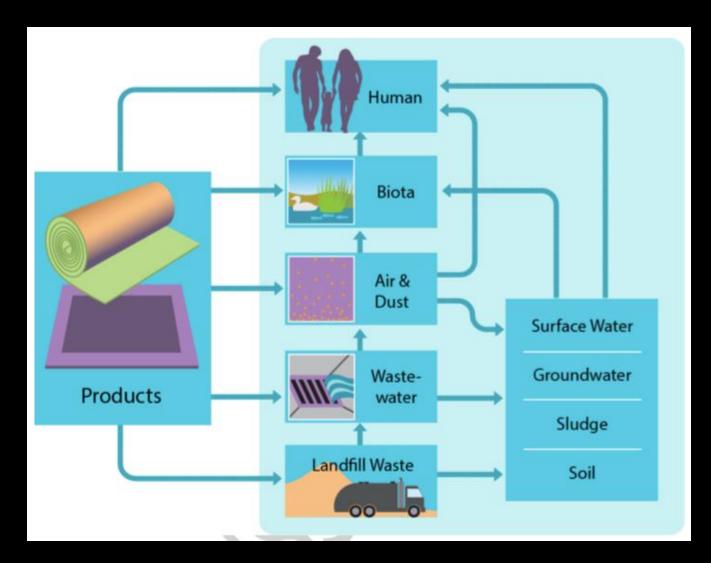
Carbon-Fluorine bond strength:

- Leads to oil and water repellency
- "Forever chemicals" -- last for geologic time!

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Courtesy: Dr. Jennifer Field

Pathways to the Environment



From California DTSC: Product-Chemical Profile for PFAS in Carpets and Rugs





Published 2007

STAIN-RESISTANT, NONSTICK, WATERPROOF, AND LETHAL

THE HIDDEN DANGERS OF C8 CALLIE LYONS





3M Employee Bulletin

Date: 05/16/2000

3M Phasing Out Some of its Specialty Materials

3M will phase out of the perfluorooctanyl chemistry in certain repellents and surfactant products by the end of this year. We thank the people in these business units for their hard work. They have consistently given the company and our customers their best efforts. For more information, below is a news release issued this morning:

ST. PAUL, Minn -- May 16, 2000 -- 3M today announced it is phasing out of the perfluorooctanyl chemistry used to produce certain repellents and surfactant products.

	C FRIDAY, MAY 19, 20
TOP OF THE NEWS	
HPA cave it r	racourad 2NI
EPA says it p	
over Scotchga	and also and all
	er entenneut
DAVID BARBOZA NEW YORK TIMES	sequences to human health.
	"This isn't a health issue now, and it won't be
The Environmental Protection Agency said	a health issue," said Larry Zobel, the medical

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Ohio River Valley: West Virginia Manufacturing Plant

- PFOA used to manufacture Teflon
- Releases to water & air
- 70,000 + residents with contaminated drinking water
- C8 Health Study



See the film Dark Waters

 The story of attorney Rob Bilott, who uncovered massive PFOA contamination from a DuPont factory in WV



PFAS exposure is a health concern



Exposure linked to health risks:

Cancer, elevated cholesterol, obesity, immune suppression, and endocrine disruption

Courtesy, Cindy Hu, Harvard University

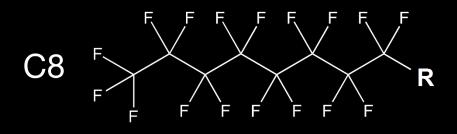
(Ref: Lewis et al., 2015; Grandjean et al., 2012; Braun et al., 2016; Barry et al., 2013)

A Health History of PFOA & PFOS

- 1961: DuPont toxicologist warns PFOA is toxic to animals and worker contact should be avoided
- 1975-1976: PFOA discovered in blood of general population and production workers;
- 1978: Immunotoxicity of PFOA & PFOS observed in monkeys
- 1981: PFOA found in umbilical cord blood of infants of female worker
- 1992: Leukocyte cell count changes in PFOA production workers
- 1998: PFOS found in blood from the general population
- 2000: 3M announces voluntary phase out of PFOS
- 2010-2015: DuPont & others finish phase out of PFOA

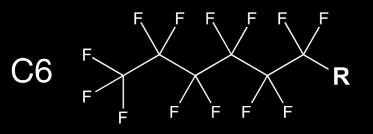
GREEN SCIENCE POLICY INSTITUTE www.GreenSciencePolicy.org Ref: Grandjean, 2018 EH

"Regrettable" Substitution?



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- Toxicity



Short chain:

- Extreme persistence
- Build-up in plants
- Suspected toxicity
- More mobile
- Clean up more difficult
- Harder to measure & monitor

AGC – THE FIRST COMPANY TO FULLY CONVERT TO PFOA-FREE* WATER AND OIL REPELLENT



AsahiGuard[®] E Series is a fluorinated water and oil repellent providing sustainable alternatives for many applications, including paper packaging, textiles, apparel, non-wovens, natural and synthetic leathers and home furnishings based on proven AGC <u>C6 chemistry</u>. AsahiGuard E-Series offers high performance







- "C6 polymers are proven safe for their intended use"
- "Evaluated by regulators, showing they are safe and effective"
- "C6 polymers cannot break down to C8"

May 2015 The Madrid Statement on Highly Fluorinated Chemicals



"We call on the international community to cooperate in limiting the production and use of PFASs and in developing safer non-fluorinated alternatives."

> Signed by 230 scientists from 40 countries 2015: Environmental Health Perspectives

2015-16

The Opinion Pages OP-ED COLUMNIST

Chemicals in Your Popcorn?

JUNE 4, 2015



What do a pizza box, a polar bear and you have in common?

<u>All carry a kind of industrial toxicant</u> called poly- and perfluoroalkyl substances, or PFASs, that do two things: They make life convenient, and they also appear to increase the risk of cancer.

These Chemicals in Pizza Boxes and Carpeting Last Forever

More than 200 scientists around the world document the threats of perfluorinated compounds and call for more government control.

The New York Times Magazine

By Lindsey Konkel, National Geographic PUBLISHED MAY 01, 2015





The Intercept_

THE TEFLON TOXIN

DuPont and the Chemistry of Deception

The Lawyer Who Became DuPont's Worst Nightmare

Rob Bilott was a corporate defense attorney for eight years. Then he took on an environmental suit that would upend his entire career — and expose a brazen, decades-long history of chemical pollution.

By NATHANIEL RICH JAN. 6, 2016

The New Hork Times

E Home



Letter from NY Department of Health to US EPA



January 14, 2016

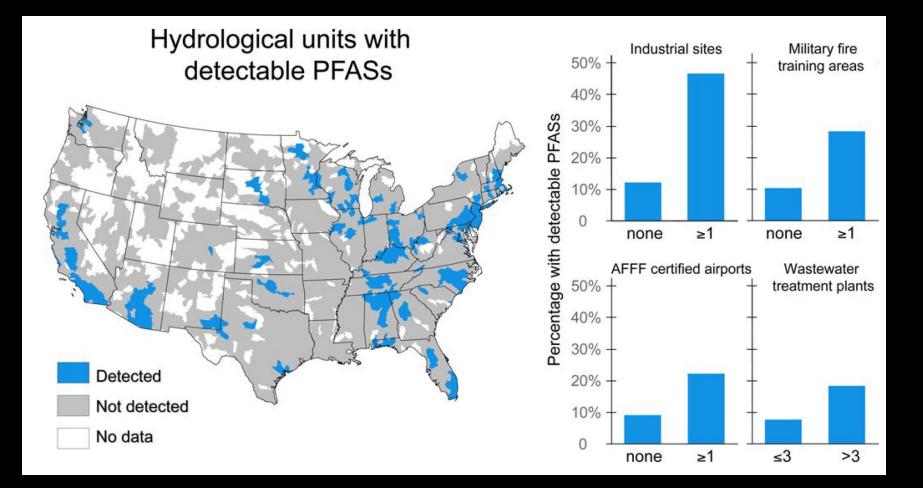
The Honorable Gina McCarthy Administrator USEPA Headquarters William Jefferson Clinton Building 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W. Mail Code: 1101A Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

We write to you to request that EPA take vigorous action to address the presence of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) in drinking water and groundwater. Respectfully, we ask that EPA:

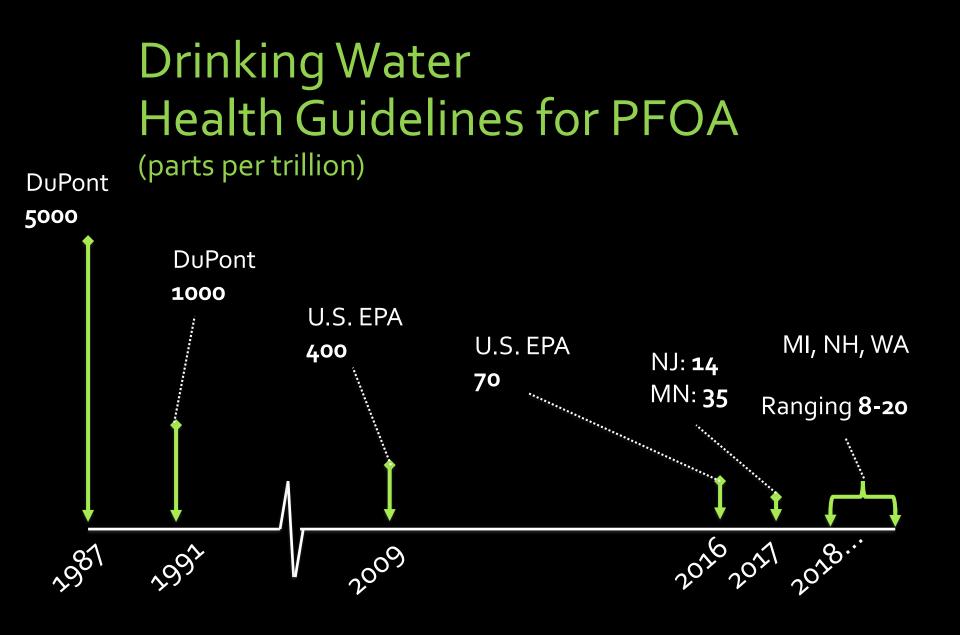
- lower its provisional health advisory of 400 parts per trillion (ppt) for PFOA drinking water to take into account the most current scientific evidence;
- act expeditiously to adopt a protective maximum contaminant level for PFOA;
- expeditiously list PFOA as a hazardous substance under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) to facilitate the cleanup of contaminated groundwater and other media; and
- review the remaining uses of PFOA under the Toxic Substances Control Act and curtail it whenever less toxic alternatives are available.

EPA Lifetime Health Advisory Level: 70 ng/L PFOA + PFOS



From Cindy Hu et al, ES&T Letters, 2016

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February 2020 California Drinking water

PFOA 10 ppt, PFOS 40 ppt

OEHHA is currently developing Public Health Goals

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September 24, 2020 Massachusetts adopts drinking water standard for 6 PFAS

 20 ppt limit for sum of PFOA, PFOS, PFDA, PFNA, PFHpA, PFHxS



- Public water supplies required to test beginning 2021
- State providing grants to impacted water systems

https://www.mass.gov/news/baker-polito-administration-establishes-strictstandards-for-pfas-in-drinking-water-to-protect



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pubs.acs.org/journal/estlcu

Global Perspective

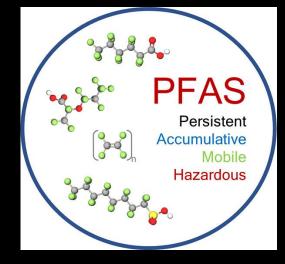
Scientific Basis for Managing PFAS as a Chemical Class

Carol F. Kwiatkowski,* David Q. Andrews, Linda S. Birnbaum, Thomas A. Bruton, Jamie C. DeWitt, Detlef R. U. Knappe, Maricel V. Maffini, Mark F. Miller, Katherine E. Pelch, Anna Reade, Anna Soehl, Xenia Trier, Marta Venier, Charlotte C. Wagner, Zhanyun Wang, and Arlene Blum

Cite This: https://dx.doi.org/10.1021/acs.estlett.0c00255

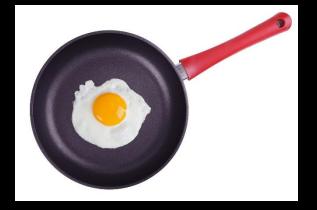


- Extreme persistence and potential toxicity make all PFAS suspect
- Not enough time to study them all
- Avoid their use when possible

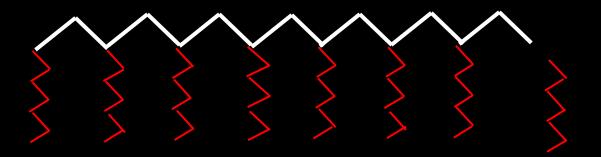


Polymer Problems

1. Polymer production (Teflon, Gortex etc.) is a major source of air & water contamination.



2. Side chain polymers can break off and cause harm.



PFAS Polymers Breakdown

EDVIRONMENTAL Science & Technology

Article

pubs.acs.org/est

Abiotic Hydrolysis of Fluorotelomer-Based Polymers as a Source of Perfluorocarboxylates at the Global Scale

John W. Washington*^{,†} and Thomas M. Jenkins[‡]

[†]USEPA, National Exposure Research Laboratory, 960 College Station Road, Athens, Georgia 30605-2700, United States [‡]USEPA, Senior Environmental Employment Program, Athens, Georgia 30605-2700, United States

Supporting Information

Fluoropolymer breakdown leads to PFAS in the environment.

New Mexico

- Cannon Air Force Base
 - Firefighting foam entered groundwater
 - PFAS migrated from base to dairy wells to cows to milk



- PFOS level up to 12,000 ppt
 - 171 times EPA health advisory level!
- Feb. 10, 2020: discovered in Clovis drinking water

Michigan

- Wolverine treated leather with Scotchguard (PFOS)
 - Leather scrap dumped
 - Sludge applied to fields
- PFOA + PFOS up to 58,000 ppt 842 times EPA health advisory level!



Hush Puppies*

Feb. 2020:

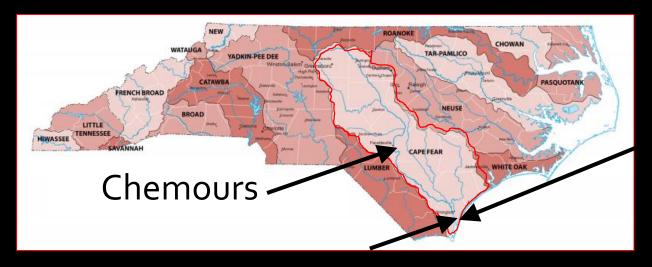
- Wolverine to pay Michigan \$69.5 million
- 3M to pay Wolverine \$55 million

What to do with PFAS-contaminated soil?



• "Cannot be disposed of at a landfill, cannot be relocated, so the soil pile just sits there waiting for ...a treatment technology...very expensive."

Water Treatment Costs: North Carolina



Brunswick County: reverse osmosis filtration for 25,000 customers: -\$99M to build -\$2.9M to operate

Cape Fear Public Utility Authority activated carbon filtration plant:

- -\$46M to build
- -\$2.7M to operate each year

Wilmington Star News, May 9th and 10th, 2018

PFAS are Problematic & Difficult to Clean Up

Product Stewardship & Prevention is Preferable!

Fluorine in U.S. fast food packaging paper

(percent positive; 400 products sampled)

*****	Dessert & bre wrappers	56%		
	Sandwich & burger wrappers		38%	
	Paperboard	20%		
	0% Paper cup	s		

Adopted from Schaider L. 2016 Fluorinated compounds in U.S. fast food packaging.

Should these products be considered compostable?





Researchers found fluorinated chemicals in onethird of the fast food packaging they tested, according to a report cnn.it/2jWU6Rw





13 237 9 205 4 47



Washington Post

food: Chemicals in the packaging

containers, where they can leach into food.

washingtonpost.com

LIKES

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Researchers find "another reason" to avoid fast

Researchers find 'another reason' to avoid fast food: Chemicals in the packa... Substances with links to health problems have been found in wrappers and

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5:09 AM - 1 Feb 2017

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Mother Jones @MotherJones

2+ Follow

The Nasty Ingredient in Fast-Food Wrappers mojo.ly/2jCPzA4



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March 9, 2017

Mr. Daniel S. Schwartz Chief Executive Officer Restaurant Brands International Inc. 226 Wyecroft Road, Oakville, Ontario L6K 3X7, Canada

Dear Mr. Schwartz:

We write to inquire about Burger King's use of potentially harmful fluorinated chemicals in food wrappers, bags, boxes, or other kinds of food packaging. Per and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) represent a class of chemicals sometimes used in fast food packaging to prevent grease and sauces from seeping through packaging. These chemical compounds have been

Microwave Popcorn Bags

- High PFAS concentrations ¹⁻⁴
- Coop Denmark halted popcorn sales in 2015 due to PFAS
- RESULT: PFAS-free popcorn bags



- 1. Zabaleta, I., et al. Talanta. 152, 353-363. (2016)
- 2. Zafeiraki, E., et al. Chemosphere. 94, 169-176. (2014)
- 3. Dolman, S. and Pelzing, B. J. Chrom. B. 879:22, 2043-2050. (2011)
- 4. Begley, T. H., et al. Food Add. and Cont. 22:10, 1023-1031. (2005)

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Denmark bans all PFAS in paper and paperboard food packaging

 "I do not want to accept the risk of harmful [PFAS] migrating from the packaging and into our food. These substances represent such a health problem that we can no longer wait for the EU."



- Danish Food Minister Mogens Jensen

•https://www.cnn.com/2019/09/04/health/denmark-pfas-food-packaging-ban-intl/index.html

PFAS and Carpet

• PFAS-treated carpet linked to high PFAS blood levels



Article

pubs.acs.org/est

Exceptionally High Serum Concentrations of Perfluorohexanesulfonate in a Canadian Family are Linked to Home Carpet Treatment Applications

Sanjay Beesoon,[†] Stephen J. Genuis,[‡] Jonathan P. Benskin,^{†,§} and Jonathan W. Martin^{*,†}

[†]Division of Analytical and Environmental Toxicology, Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, Canada

[‡]Department of Medicine, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, Canada

Supporting Information

Moving away from PFAS in carpet

- Major manufacturers phasing out PFAS
 - 2014 Interface
 - 2017 Tarkett
 - 2019 Engineered Floors
 - 2019 Shaw

Home Depot plans to phase out selling rugs and carpets containing PFAS

By VIRGINIA GORDAN • SEP 17, 2019

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CREDIT ANDREI / ADOBE STOCK

Ron Jarvis, The Home Depot's vice president for environmental innovation, said in a written statement.

chemicals.

Michigan Radio, Sept. 17, 2019

The Home Depot announced Tuesday

that it will stop buying from its suppliers

any rugs and carpets that contain PFAS

"Excluding PFAS from the carpets and rugs we sell is another example of our shared commitment to building a better

future for our customers and the planet,"

BRANDS ARE ELIMINATING HIGHLY FLUORINATED CHEMICALS

IKEA	HaM	Crate&Barrel	LEVI STRAUSS & CO.
PUMA	Sebenetton	ESIPIRIT	adidas
MARKS <mark>&</mark> SPENCER	MANGO	BURBERRY®	ZARA

2018 FAA Reauthorization

- Directs FAA to allow airports to use PFAS-free Class B firefighting foams
- Signed into law Oct. 5, 2018



2020 National Defense Authorization Act

- Require military to phase PFAS out ot firefighting foams
- USGS nationwide water sampling
- Require reporting from PFAS manufacturers



- Authorize Air Force to compensate for contaminated agricultural lands
- Prohibit fluorinated packaging in meals ready to eat
- Continue funding health studies in impacted communities

Europe to adopt total PFAS drinking water standard

- 2020: group standard for 20 PFAS
- Next 3 years: develop analytical method for total fluorine
- Testing to begin in 2021-2022

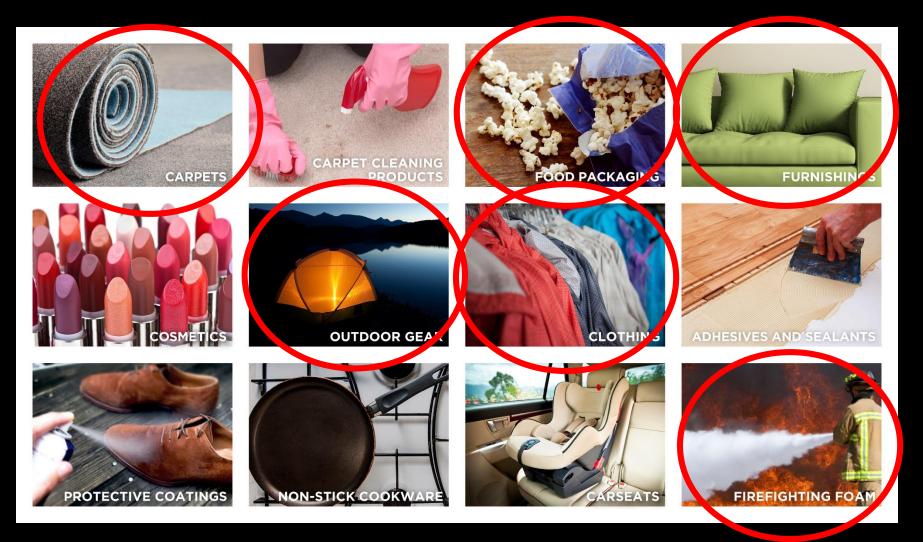


Towards a PFAS Phase-out in Europe

- Proposal from Sweden, Netherlands, Germany, Denmark:
- Take action "on the EUlevel to phase out PFASs at the latest by 2025, to be in effect by 2030."



Moving away from PFAS





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PFAS Central: sharing notable news, scientific papers & events



NEW'S

PFAS Chemicals to be Banned in Firefighting Foam Used on Military Bases

U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand today announced that a provision she cosponsored to prohibit the Department of Defense from procuring firefighting foam that contains perand polyfluoralkyl substances (PFAS) passed the Senate Armed Services Committee as part of the annual National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).





SCIENCE

Larval amphibians rapidly bioaccumulate poly- and perfluoroalkyl substances. Toxic frogs lead to bioaccumulation in predator species.

LEARN MORE



POLICY

The Cost of Inaction: A socioeconomic analysis of environmental and health impacts linked to exposure to PFAS

A recent Nordic Council study. The Cost of Inaction: A socioeconomic analysis of environmental and health impacts linked to exposure to PFAS, estimates the very high cost of harm to human health and the environment from PFAS exposure in Europe. LEARN MORE

Although useful, PFAS or highly fluorinated chemicals are associated with serious health harm and can remain in the environment forever.

LEARN MORE

LATEST NEWS



LATEST POLICY

OPPORTUNITIES

Six Classes Videos



www.SixClasses.org

For monthly e-newsletters: PFASCentral.org/Newsletter

Questions: Arlene@GreenSciencePolicy.org

By limiting use of the PFAS

We can have a healthier world.

GreenSciencePolicy.org PFASCentral.org

Extra slides

Drinking water: California



August 2019: Notification levels dropped

- PFOS: 13 ppt → 6.5 ppt
- PFOA: 14 ppt → 5.1 ppt

Feb. 2020: Response levels dropped

- Formerly: (PFOA + PFOS) 70 ppt
- Now: PFOA 10 ppt, PFOS 40 ppt

OEHHA developing Public Health Goals

CA Water Board PFAS Investigation

Announced March 2019

- Phase 1: airports, landfills, and nearby drinking water wells
- Phase 2: Refineries, fuel terminals, fire training locations, urban wildfire areas
- Phase 3: Wastewater treatment plants

July 9, 2020:

- Investigative order to ~250 POTWs (> 1 mgd)
- 31 PFAS compounds
- Beginning Q4 2020, to last 1 year

PFAS & Wastewater Treatment

• Are WWTPs sources of PFAS?



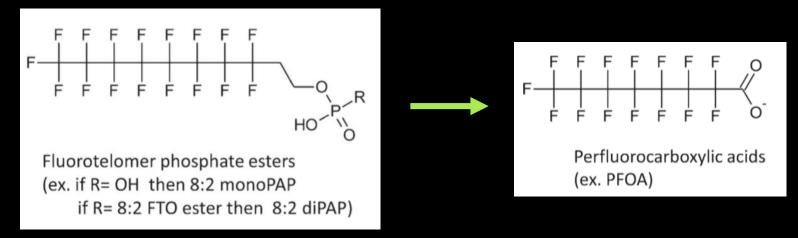
Sources of PFAS Emissions

- Industrial
 - Plants that produce PFAS
 - Plants that use PFAS
- Firefighting foam
 - Military bases, airports, etc.
- Landfills
- Consumer products* carpets, apparel, food packaging, cosmetics, other

High input = high output. Industrial sources & firefighting foam are important.

Conventional treatment trains not effective

- Perfluoroalkyl acids (PFOA, PFOS, etc.) resistant to biodegradation
- Aerobic treatment oxidizes precursor compounds, generating more perfluoroalkyl acids
- Effluent > Influent



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www.GreenSciencePolicy.org

Schultz et al., Environ. Sci. Technol. 2006 21

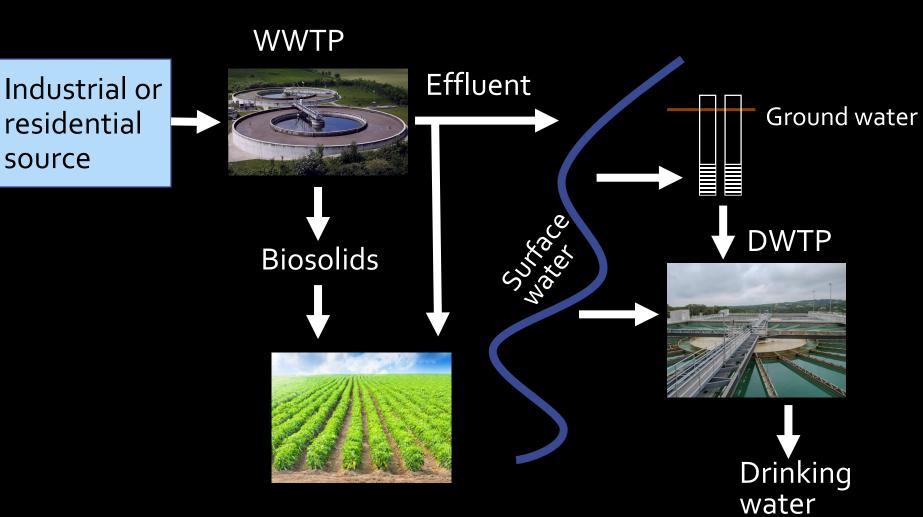
From WWTPs to the Environment: Biosolids

- Partitioning to biosolids
 - Long-chains > short-chains
- 2013 study: 10 out of 13 PFAS analyzed consistently detected in US municipal biosolids samples
- Potential for accumulation in agricultural soils & uptake to food crops

From WWTPs to the Environment: Effluent

- Can be Problematic for downstream users, example: Orange County has wells with PFAS
 - Possible source: treated wastewater from Inland Empire entering groundwater through Santa Ana River
 - OCWD expects to shut down 1/3 of its 200 wells this year due to PFOA & PFOS





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PFAS Treatment



Drinking Water:

- Granular activated carbon
- Ion exchange
- Reverse osmosis



Wastewater:

- Advanced treatment

Biosolids:

- Industrial pretreatment