

PFAS* is the short name for a class of human-made chemical compounds known as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances. Since these chemicals do not easily degrade in the environment or body, they accumulate over time. PFAS encompasses a group of more than 9,000 chemicals that have been used in many industries, including textiles, and consumer products worldwide for 70+ years.



*This includes compounds such as Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS), and Hexafluoropropylene Oxide Dimer Acid (also known as "GenX"). These chemical compounds are used in many different industries and consumer products, including oil repellant textiles, food-handling materials, firefighting foam, medical devices, paints, personal care products, construction materials, and industrial processing aids. Research suggests exposure to some PFAS might result in harmful health outcomes including cancer, increased cholesterol levels, and immune system effects.