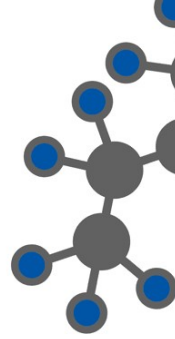


PFAS *or* Forever Chemicals

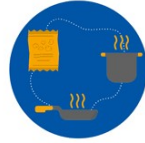


Poly- and perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are manufactured chemicals that are widely used throughout society and found in the environment. PFAS resist degradation, persist in the environment and some stay in our bodies. For several of them, there are serious health concerns.

Where can they be found?



Rain clothes, textiles and surface treatments



Non-stick coatings for frying pans and pots, and food packaging



Fire-fighting foams and fire protective clothing



Chrome plating, paints and construction materials

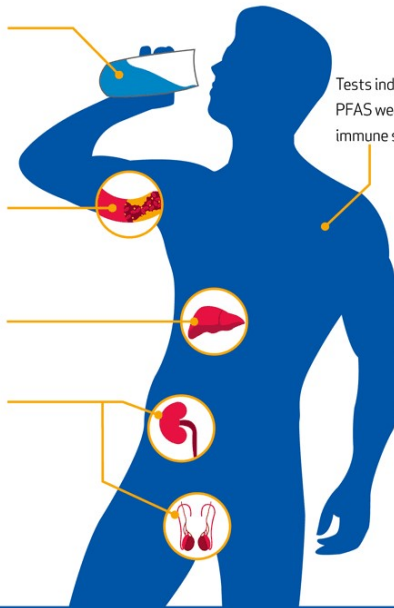
How do some PFAS affect your health?

Studies have shown that PFAS have contaminated rainwater, drinking water and groundwater

Can also be found in most people's blood and is linked to elevated cholesterol levels

Some PFAS can damage the liver

Studies show that some PFAS contribute to the development of kidney and testicular cancer



Tests indicate some PFAS weaken the immune system

What are ECHA and the EU doing?

RESTRICTIONS



The production and use of some PFAS are already restricted as part of the EU's chemicals legislation.

STUDIES



ECHA and the European Commission are carrying out studies related to PFAS used in fire-fighting foams and textiles.

SAFER ALTERNATIVES



Placing them on the REACH Candidate List of substances of very high concern drives their substitution.

ASSESSMENT



Since 2014, ECHA has assessed PFAS in groups rather than one by one to speed up the process. ECHA's database contains more than 2 000 PFAS.

Check our database

<https://echa.europa.eu/information-on-chemicals/registered-substances>

