



Protect Massachusetts residents from toxic PFAS

Problem: Per and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a class of over 15,000 chemicals widely used in consumer products and industrial processes. Toxic at very low levels, PFAS increase the risk of several cancers, immunosuppression, ulcerative colitis, high cholesterol, thyroid dysfunction, endocrine disruption, and reproductive, developmental and neurological problems.¹

These chemicals are already in the blood of 98% of Americans and are contaminating Massachusetts drinking water, rivers, lakes, oceans, soil, plants and wildlife.²

 **Everyone deserves clean drinking water.** According to Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection data, public water systems in **96 cities and towns** have tested above the state's legal limit for PFAS.³ PFAS are also contaminating private wells. Drinking water will continue to be contaminated as we keep making, using and disposing of things with PFAS.

Ask your legislator to cosponsor and support:

An Act to Protect Massachusetts Public Health from PFAS

(S1504/H4870) (Senator Julian Cyr/Representative Kate Hogan)

- Sets up a PFAS Remediation Trust Fund to test and treat public drinking water systems and private wells for PFAS contamination
- Requires manufacturers and distributors to disclose to a publicly accessible database if they add PFAS to products sold in MA
- Bans PFAS in carpets and rugs, car seats, children's products, cookware, fabric sprays, food packaging, personal care products, textiles, and upholstered furniture
- Restricts the use of PFAS-containing firefighting foam for testing and training
- Allows the MA Department of Public Health (DPH) to restrict PFAS in additional consumer products over time; Supports research on alternatives to PFAS
- Restricts industrial releases of PFAS to groundwater and surface water
- Requires a study of PFAS impacts on Massachusetts agriculture and prevents farmers from being charged rollback or conveyance taxes if they must stop farming due to PFAS contamination
- Requires MA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to phase out the land application of sewage sludge without the department's site-specific approval

Find your state legislators' name and contact information at: <https://malegislature.gov/Search/FindMyLegislator>

PFAS does not belong in....



PRODUCTS



HOMES



PEOPLE



FARMS



WATER



WILDLIFE

1 <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/about/health-effects.html> and Toxic Use Reduction Institute, Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Policy Analysis, May 2021 at <https://www.turi.org/publications/pfas-policy-analysis-2021/>

2 <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/index.html>

3 <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas-in-drinking-water#pfas-detected-in-drinking-water-supplies-in-massachusetts-Other>



Alliance
for a
**HEALTHY
TOMORROW**

What are PFAS? PFAS (Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a class of chemicals used to make products stainproof, water-resistant and non-stick. PFAS are in a wide array of consumer products including firefighting foam, food packaging, carpets, clothing, pesticides, artificial turf, cleaners, waxes, building materials, paints and personal care products. All PFAS have a fluorine atom bonded to a carbon atom. This is one of the strongest bonds in organic chemistry — and, as a result, PFAS chemicals are extraordinarily persistent.

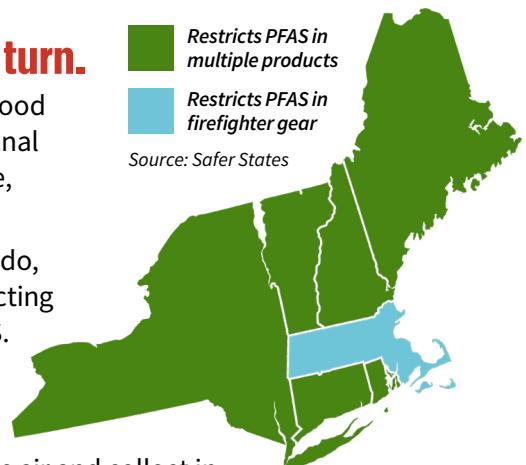
They have been nicknamed “forever chemicals”, because they never fully break down, remaining in the environment for hundreds of years. PFAS are bio-accumulative, which means, as we continue to make and use PFAS, they continue to build up in our bodies and in the environment. **The higher the levels of PFAS in our bodies, the more likely we are to experience health issues associated with PFAS.**

Other states are taking action. Now it's Massachusetts' turn.

Every New England state — except Massachusetts — has banned PFAS in food packaging, firefighting foam, carpets/rugs, clothing, fabric sprays, and personal care products. Most have also banned PFAS in children's products, cookware, and furniture.

Our New England neighbors have joined leading states like California, Colorado, Maryland, Minnesota, New York, Oregon, Washington and more who are protecting their residents and firefighters by restricting the unnecessary use of toxic PFAS.

How are we exposed? People are exposed by drinking contaminated water, eating contaminated food, and using any of the hundreds of products that contain PFAS. PFAS in products are released into the air and collect in dust or can be absorbed through our skin. When products are thrown away, the cycle of harm continues. Toxic gases are formed during incineration. PFAS leaks out of landfills and contaminates groundwater. Sewage sludge contains PFAS. Since the 1970s, sludge has been spread on farms and sold for use in gardens as a fertilizer. The PFAS in sludge are absorbed into plants and animals and contaminate soil and groundwater.



As long as we keep making, using, and throwing away things with PFAS, PFAS will keep contaminating us.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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