

PFAS Protect Your Health Get the Facts

PFAS (pronounced p-fahs) are Perfluoroalk and Polyfluoroalkyl man-made chemicals that have collectively emerged as one of the biggest toxic environmental threats facing the Great Lakes region.

Manufactured since the 1940s for common uses such as nonstick cookware, fire retardants, flame and water-proof clothing, food wrappers, automotive and industrial application, stain prevention products, and even ski wax. Unfortunately, now we know PFAS are toxic, harmful to human health, and extremely persistent in the environment. Scientific studies link PFAS to health impacts such as cancer, thyroid disease, weakened immunity, and other health problems.

PFAS compounds are being discovered in locations across the country, which is why more testing is needed. However, there are certain places that are far more likely to be contaminated with PFAS, such as near airports, military bases, and current or past industrial areas.



Manufactured since the 1940s for common uses such as nonstick cookware, fire retardants, waterproofing, food wrapper, and coatings.

How are we exposed to PFAS?

There are three main ways people are exposed to PFAS:

- * **Food** – chemicals used in food packaging and cookware get into the food we eat
- * **Air** – chemicals applied to furniture and clothing get into the dust and air we breathe.
- * **Water** – chemicals used in fire-fighting or by industries gets into the water we drink.

HEALTH IMPACTS OF PFAS

Scientific studies suggest exposure to PFAS in water and food are harmful, including:

- Negatively impact childhood growth & learning
- Negatively affect the immune system
- Negative impact on reproductive health
- Increase risk of cancer
- Interfere with thyroid health