

# Reducing “forever chemicals” and Amara’s Law

Minnesota is protecting human health, the environment, and taxpayer dollars by reducing the use of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, also known as PFAS. This family of human-made chemicals has been widely used in consumer products for decades for their nonstick, water, heat- and grease-resistant properties. PFAS are an environmental and public health concern. These chemicals do not break down in the environment, earning the nickname “forever chemicals.”

The PFAS Blueprint is Minnesota’s comprehensive strategy protect families and communities from these substances through prevention, management, and clean up. New laws allow for greater PFAS pollution prevention by phasing out nonessential use of the chemicals in products.

In Minnesota, PFAS are prohibited in food packaging and firefighting foam, with some exceptions, as of 2024. In January 2025, a comprehensive PFAS pollution prevention law called Amara’s Law begins to take effect when 11 categories of consumer products sold or distributed in Minnesota must be made without PFAS. Reporting requirements on remaining PFAS use begins in 2026. By 2032, nonessential use of PFAS in products will be prohibited.



## Benefits of reducing PFAS use

### Protecting health

Removing PFAS from products makes it easier for consumers to reduce exposure. Long-term exposure to PFAS, even in small amounts, can affect human health. Exposure to some PFAS are associated with an elevated risk of negative health outcomes, including impaired immune systems, liver problems, lower birthweight and certain cancers. Exposure is cumulative and may come from various sources. Amara’s Law is named for Amara Strande, who advocated for PFAS prohibitions before passing away from cancer that she attributed to PFAS exposure.

### Protecting our environment

Human exposure to PFAS can occur directly from product use and from PFAS pollution in the environment. Pollution can happen when a product containing PFAS is made, used, and even decades after it is disposed of because the chemicals

can enter the environment from incinerators, landfills, and recycling facilities. PFAS have been found in the water, wildlife, air, and soil in Minnesota. Reducing PFAS use reduces the risk of the chemicals entering drinking water supplies and food. Because of the chemicals’ longevity, reducing PFAS use today means reducing the risk of human exposure for generations to come.

### Where PFAS are found



## Protecting our economy

Reducing PFAS use will reduce PFAS pollution clean up needs, which are difficult and expensive. Estimated costs to protect Minnesota's drinking water supplies from PFAS to new federal standards exceed \$1 billion, including water treatment, investigation, and remedial actions. Removing and destroying PFAS from wastewater would break some cycles of contamination, but estimated costs are unaffordable, ranging from \$11 billion - \$25 billion over 20 years for the state. PFAS treatment and removal costs are in addition to PFAS pollution costs in the health care system, which are difficult to quantify.

## Products made without PFAS in 2025

The first phase of Amara's Law takes effect in January 2025 when 11 categories of common consumer products sold or distributed in Minnesota must be made without PFAS. This applies to in-person and online sales of new products and not the continued use of products Minnesotans already own. Thousands of products made without PFAS from these categories are already available to consumers, and several Minnesota businesses report growing national demand for their products made without PFAS.

## Learn more and contact

### Minnesota Department of Health

[www.health.state.mn.us/pfas](http://www.health.state.mn.us/pfas)

Email: [health.hazard@state.mn.us](mailto:health.hazard@state.mn.us)

### Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

[www.pca.state.mn.us/pfas](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/pfas)

Email: [pfasinfo.pca@state.mn.us](mailto:pfasinfo.pca@state.mn.us)

## Product categories that must be made without PFAS to be sold in Minnesota beginning in 2025



### Carpets or rugs

Examples: carpets, rugs, car floor mats, outdoor rugs, synthetic turf



### Cleaning products

Examples: detergent, stain removers, glass cleaner, hard surface cleaners



### Cookware

Examples: Baking sheets, electric woks, pots, pans, skillets, grills, waffle makers



### Cosmetics

Examples: Blushes, foundations, lip sticks, mascaras, nail polish



### Dental floss

Examples: Dental floss, dental picks, interdental brushes



### Fabric treatments

Examples: Spray-on water repellants, stain protectors, flame retardants



### Children's products

Examples: Products for children under 12 years old, including car seats, children's clothing, highchairs, playpens, toys



### Menstruation products

Examples: Pads, tampons, period underwear, menstrual cups



### Textile furnishings

Examples: Draperies, rugs, furnishings, bedding, towels, tablecloths



### Ski wax

Examples: Ski and snowboard waxes plus related tuning products



### Upholstered furniture

Examples: Cushioned chairs, mattresses, recliners, sofas