

Reducing “forever chemical” use in Minnesota



November 2024

What are Per – and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)?

- Also known as “forever chemicals”
- Family of human-made chemicals
- Extremely stable and do not break down in the environment.
- Widely used for decades, and commonly found in consumer products.



Why are PFAS used in products?



Waterproof



Stain resistant



Non-stick



Heat resistant

PFAS have been used in consumer products since the 1950s due to their ability to make products waterproof, stainproof, nonstick, heat resistant and more.

PFAS is used in many kinds of products



Upholstered
furniture



Ski wax



Paint



Textile furnishings



Menstruation
products



Kids products



Floss



Food packaging



Cookware



Carpet and rugs



Firefighting foam



Fabric treatments



Cleaning products



Cosmetics



Many more

Problems with PFAS

Small amounts
may be harmful.



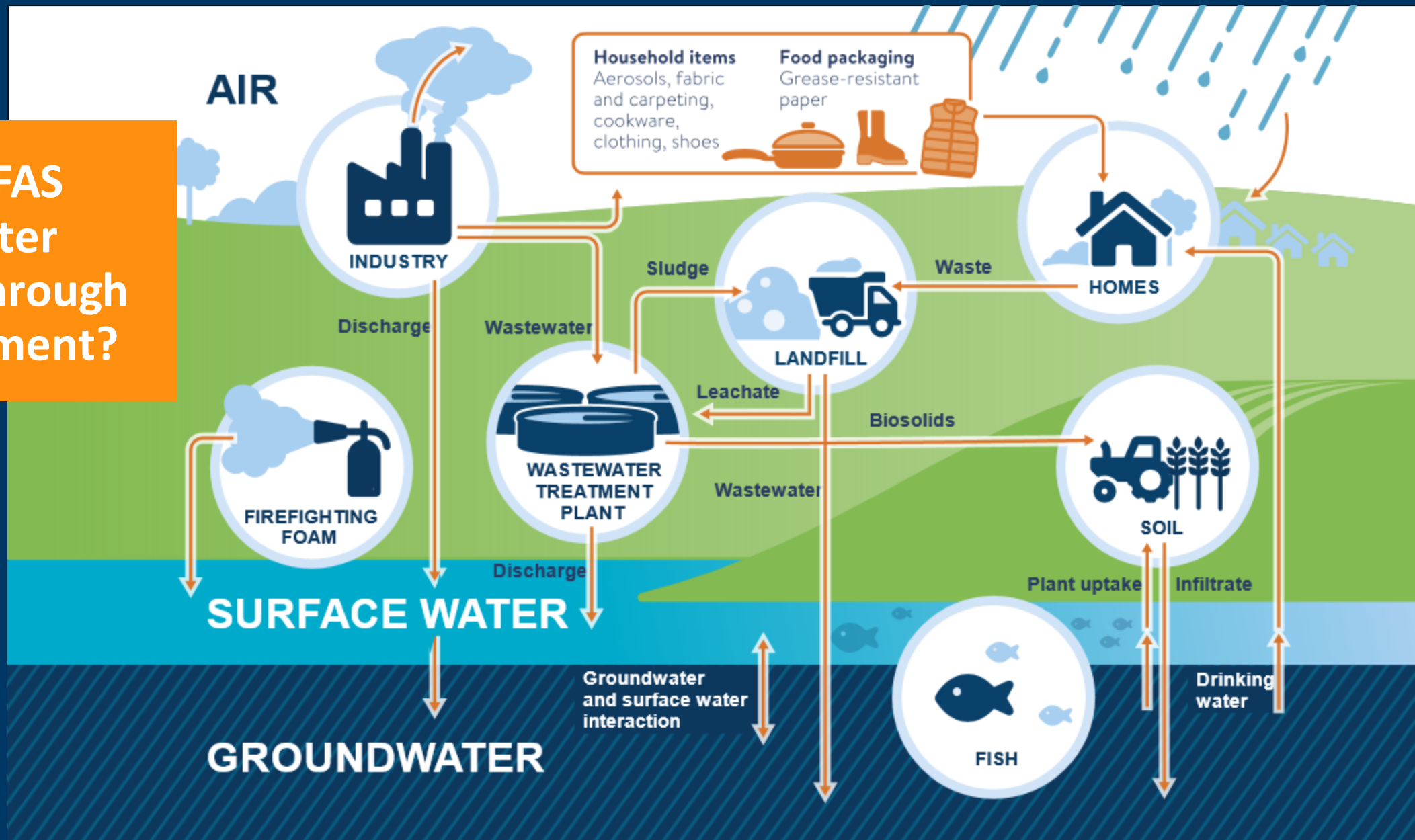
Some build up in
people over time.



All are difficult
to remove and
destroy.



How does PFAS pollution enter and move through the environment?



Why remove PFAS from products?

- Bottom line, reducing PFAS use in products will:
- Help protect human and environmental health.
- Cut down on pollution, in turn reducing clean-up costs.
- Make it easier for consumers to avoid the chemicals.

Cost to buy PFAS
to make consumer
products

\$50 - \$1000
per pound

**Cost to remove
and destroy PFAS**
from municipal
wastewater

**\$2.7 million -
\$18 million**
per pound

Human exposure concerns

In addition to ingestion through contaminated water or food, some consumer products could pose direct risks to product users.



With products like ski wax and waterproofing sprays there is potential for exposure through inhaling vapor, dust.



Personal care products, dental floss, menstruation products are also a source of direct exposure. i.e., sunscreen, cosmetics, tampons, pads, menstrual cups.

Minnesota's PFAS Blueprint

Ending nonessential PFAS use

- Minnesota's PFAS Blueprint is an interagency strategy to prevent, manage, and clean up PFAS pollution.
- PFAS Blueprint called for legislative action to end nonessential PFAS use.
- New pollution prevention laws will help reach that goal



Amara's Law

Minnesota's most comprehensive PFAS pollution law, known as Amara's Law, aims to reduce PFAS exposure by prohibiting their use in products sold or distributed in Minnesota.

Minnesota is a national leader among about 25 states that limit PFAS use to prevent pollution.



Minnesota's PFAS in product laws

Amara's Law

July 1, 2020	Jan. 1, 2024	Jan. 1, 2025	Jan. 1, 2026	Jan. 1, 2032
Use of PFAS in firefighting foam for training is prohibited, with exceptions	PFAS in food packaging prohibited PFAS in firefighting foam is prohibited, with exceptions	PFAS is prohibited in 11 product categories	PFAS reporting requirements begin	All other nonessential use in products prohibited, unless determined to be a currently unavoidable use

What will change in 2025?

11 categories of consumer products for sale in Minnesota must be made without PFAS.



Carpets and rugs

Car floor mats, RV carpeting, outdoor rugs, and synthetic turf



Cookware

Baking molds and sheets, bowls, utensils, electric woks, pots, pans, skillets, grills, trays, waffle makers



Fabric treatments

Spray-on water repellants, stain protectors, and flame retardants



Ski wax

Ski and snowboard waxes plus related tuning products



Children's products

Car seats, clothing, bassinets, highchairs, nursing pads, playpens, toys, and many more.



Cosmetics

Blushes, eyeliners, foundations, toners, lip sticks, lotions, mascaras, nail polish



Menstruation products

Disposable and reusable pads, tampons, period underwear, and menstrual cups



Upholstered furniture

Upholstered chairs, mattresses, recliners, sofas



Cleaning products

Detergent, stain removers, vehicle cleaning products, glass cleaner, hard surface cleaners



Dental floss

Dental floss, dental picks, interdental brushes



Textile furnishings

Draperies, rugs, furnishings, bedding, towels, tablecloths

How to reduce exposure through products



New MN PFAS laws make it easier for consumers to avoid PFAS in their homes.



Look for labels like “made without PFAS” or “PFAS-free,” however labeling products made with or without PFAS is not required.



Some companies have statements on their websites about their commitment to remove PFAS from their products.



Third-party verification of products can help consumers find products made without PFAS.

Disposing of products containing PFAS



Continue to use products you already own as you see fit



Some products can be disposed of alongside other household waste. Examples: cookware, dental floss



Liquid products containing PFAS should be disposed of through county household hazardous waste programs. Examples: ski waxes, floor waxes, glass cleaners, and cleaners in aerosol cans

Learn more

- Visit [**www.pca.state.mn.us/pfas**](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/pfas) to learn more about PFAS and Minnesota's plan to protect human health and the environment
- Sign up for email updates as Minnesota implements other PFAS pollution prevention measures in 2026 and 2032
- Visit [**www.health.state.mn.us/pfas**](http://www.health.state.mn.us/pfas) to learn more about PFAS and health
- Send questions to [**pfasinfo.pca@state.mn.us**](mailto:pfasinfo.pca@state.mn.us)