

PFAS

Current information resources on PFAS

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Topics: Pollutants | Drinking Water | Wastewater | Ecosystems

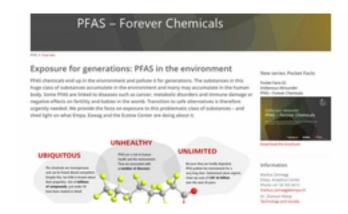
A new website and two fact sheets provide up-to-date information on PFAS, the forever chemicals in the environment, and outline possible courses of action.

PFAS, short for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, are a large group of chemicals. Many of them are water, grease and dirt repellent, and have very high chemical and thermal stability. Because of these properties, they have been used for decades in numerous everyday and industrial products – for example, in outdoor clothing, ski waxes, pan coatings, food packaging and fire-extinguishing foams, as well as in pesticides and medicines.

The problem is that PFAS are extremely stable and hardly degradable, which is why they accumulate in the environment and in the human body and can now be found almost everywhere. These 'forever chemicals' are increasingly coming under criticism because they are associated with health risks. They affect the immune and endocrine systems, increase the risk of certain types of cancer and can be toxic to reproduction. Authorities and industry worldwide are faced with the challenge of limiting emissions and developing alternatives.

Several research institutions, including the aquatic research institute Eawag, have now compiled information on PFAS. This information incorporates the latest scientific findings and political trends and is intended to contribute to objective discussions and informed decision-making.





(In)famous Allrounder: PFAS - Forever Chemicals

Publisher: Empa, Eawag and the Ecotox Centre

This website provides a concise introduction to the topic of PFAS. What are PFAS? Why are PFAS hazardous? How can I avoid PFAS in everyday life? What do Empa, Eawag and the Ecotox Centre do? How do PFAS get into the environment? What damage do PFAS cause? How can PFAS be eliminated? And how can PFAS be replaced?

Visit the website





Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in the Environment

Publisher: Ecotox Centre

Languages: German and French

This fact sheet summarises current knowledge about PFAS in the environment. It describes where PFAS occur, how they spread and what risks they pose. It also presents evidence of PFAS in water bodies, groundwater, soil and aquatic organisms, and describes existing limits and ongoing regulatory initiatives.

View the fact sheet in German

View the fact sheet in French



PFAS: Occurrence, Risks and Approaches

Publisher: SCNAT (with the involvement of Eawag)

Languages: German and French

This fact sheet provides an up-to-date overview of scientific findings on PFAS, their use, their occurrence in the environment and the risks they pose to health and the environment. It also outlines possible courses of action for policymakers, researchers and society.



View the fact sheet in German

View the fact sheet in French

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Contact



Christian Stamm

Deputy Director

Tel. +41 58 765 5565

christian.stamm@eawag.ch



Christa McArdell
Senior scientist / group leader
Tel. +41 58 765 5483
christa.mcardell@eawag.ch



Andri Bryner
Media officer
Tel. +41 58 765 5104
andri.bryner@eawag.ch

https://www.eawag.ch/en/info/portal/news/news-detail/current-information-resources-on-pfas

