

THE PROBLEM

Toxic chemicals known as Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are linked to testicular and kidney cancer, liver damage, hormone disruption, increases in cholesterol, thyroid disruption, asthma, reproductive disorders including infertility, low birth weight, and decreased response to vaccines at levels in the parts per trillion.

Known as forever chemicals because they don't break down, even during incineration, contaminating water sources and soil, are taken up by plants and contaminate fish, shellfish and wildlife.

Despite these dangers, many consumer products continue to be made with PFAS chemicals to make the product stain or grease resistant, water-repellent and anti-stick. PFAS in consumer products not only expose consumers but contaminate the environment at the end of their use.

Connecticut became a national leader in 2021 when PFAS were banned in firefighting foam and food packaging—two major sources of contamination.

We must do more to “turn off the tap” of these highly toxic chemicals.

A COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION

Many states, including New York (2022) and California (2022), are restricting consumer products containing PFAS—like carpets, rugs, textiles, cleaning products and cosmetics. Connecticut should do the same. Many retailers are already moving away from using PFAS in these product categories but state laws assure that we are rapidly shifting the marketplace and protecting CT residents and our environment.

Testing of sites and remediation across Connecticut are also critical. We must assure that the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and the Department of Public Health have on-going funding to achieve this goal.



While testing and remediation are key, preventing further unnecessary contamination from consumer products (where safe alternatives exist) is a common-sense next step.

FAST FACTS

- ❖ Nearly every American has PFAS in their body. They are found in blood, breast milk, and even umbilical cord blood of newborn babies.
- ❖ Scientists from around the world are calling on governments to eliminate the entire class of PFAS where possible due to the significant human health and environmental impacts.
- ❖ A 2022 UN Human Rights Commission report urged countries to ban all uses of PFAS.
- ❖ Fish in the Farmington and Hockanum river have been found to have PFAS—requiring fish consumption advisories.



MORE INFORMATION

Anne Hulick
Clean Water Action
860-302-4861
ahulick@cleanwater.org