

PFAS Links

What are PFOS, PFOA and PFAS?

PFOS and PFOA belong to a family of chemicals referred to as perfluoroalkyl substances or PFAS for short. PFOS (perfluorooctanesulfonic acid) and PFOA (perfluorooctanoic acid) are two chemicals in this family that were made in the largest amounts in the United States. Some other chemicals in this family that have been found in Maine soils and water are:

- PFNA (perfluorononanoic acid)
- PFHxS (perfluorohexanesulfonic acid)
- PFHpA (perfluoroheptanoic acid)

PFOS and PFOA were used for a long time in many household and industrial products. These chemicals were used to make products to repel water and resist stains and grease. PFOS and PFOA were used to make carpet, fabric, clothing, food packaging, pots and pans, and personal care products. They were also used in some factories and were a key ingredient in some fire-fighting foams. Most companies have stopped using these two chemicals.

<https://www.maine.gov/dep/spills/topics/pfas/> Maine DEP

<https://www.maine.gov/dacf/ag/pfas/index.shtml> Maine Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry

<https://www.epa.gov/pfas> EPA

<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-and-pfos> EPA Drinking Water Health Advisories

<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/> Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry (ATSDR)

<https://www.maine.gov/dep/spills/topics/pfas/Maine-CDC-PFAS-Well-Water-Fact-Sheet7.07.2021.pdf> Maine CDC PFAS Well Water Information

<https://www.maine.gov/dep/spills/topics/pfas/Maine-CDC-PFAS-Well-Water-Fact-Sheet7.07.2021.pdf> Maine CDC PFAS Q&A