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✦ AI Overview

Yes, "PFAS chemicals," or per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), are widespread and have been found in the blood of most Americans, as well as in our food, water, dust, and many common products. Their presence is so extensive that they are often called "forever chemicals" because they break down very slowly and can persist in the environment for long periods. [↗](#)

Where PFAS Are Found

PFAS are man-made chemicals that have been used since the 1940s in numerous applications due to their heat, grease, and water-resistant properties. They are found in a vast array of products, including: [↗](#)

- **Food packaging:** Grease-resistant paper, fast food wrappers, pizza boxes, and microwave popcorn bags. [↗](#)
- **Textiles:** Waterproof outdoor clothing, carpets, and mattresses. [↗](#)
- **Cookware:** Non-stick coatings. [↗](#)
- **Personal care products:** Some hair conditioners, dental floss, and cosmetics. [↗](#)
- **Firefighting foam:** Used in training and response at airports, military bases, and chemical plants. [↗](#)
- **Industrial uses:** Chemicals used in chrome plating, electronics, and some textile and paper manufacturing. [↗](#)

Why PFAS Are a Concern

Pervasive presence:

PFAS have been detected worldwide at low levels in just about everyone's blood, though levels are higher in areas with contaminated water supplies. [↗](#)

Environmental persistence:

They are "forever chemicals" because their strong carbon-fluorine bonds are very resistant to degradation, leading to long-term environmental contamination. [↗](#)

Health implications:

While more research is ongoing, studies suggest a potential for health concerns linked to PFAS exposure, making their widespread presence a public health issue. [↗](#)

Evidence of widespread contamination includes: [↗](#)

- The [Environmental Working Group \(EWG\)](#)'s interactive map shows thousands of confirmed PFAS contamination sites across the United States and territories, indicating contamination is known to exist in all 50 states.
- A 2024 EPA report on the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 5 found PFAS in 33% of the 4,750 public water systems tested.

PFAS ‘forever chemicals’ are widespread and threaten human health
Oct 9, 2020 — They have also been found in dust and food, including eggs, meat, milk, fish, fruits and vegetables.

[The Conversation](#) [⋮](#)



PFAS—“Forever Chemicals”—May Be the Biggest Water Problem ...
Oct 22, 2024 — PFAS—“Forever Chemicals”—May Be the Biggest Water Problem Since Lead. ... PFAS are all around us—in household products...

[Government Accountability Office \(GAO\) \(.gov\)](#) [⋮](#)



Our Current Understanding of the Human Health and Environmental ...
Nov 26, 2024 — PFAS Can Be Found in Many Places ... Fire extinguishing foam - in aqueous film-forming foams (or AFFFs) used to exting...

[U.S. Environmental Protection Agency \(.gov\)](#) [⋮](#)

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[U.S. Environmental Protection Agency \(.gov\)](#)
<https://www.epa.gov/pfas/pfas-explained>

PFAS Explained | US EPA [⋮](#)

Oct 3, 2024 — **PFAS are widely used, long lasting chemicals**, components of which break down very slowly over time. Because of their widespread use and ...

People also ask :

How widespread is PFAS?



What state has the most PFAS contamination?



How do we get exposed to PFAS?



Does everyone have PFAS in their body?



[Feedback](#)



National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (.gov)

<https://www.niehs.nih.gov> › health › topics › agents › pfc

Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

Human exposure to PFAS is widespread but variable by geography and occupation. PFAS are used in the aerospace, automotive, construction, and electronics ...

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NRDC

<https://www.nrdc.org> › stories › forever-chemicals-calle...

“Forever Chemicals” Called PFAS Show Up in Your Food, ...

Apr 12, 2023 — These toxic **chemicals** are so common in consumer products and manufacturing that they're everywhere—including inside our bodies.

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Environmental Working Group

<https://www.ewg.org> › news-release › 2024/02 › epa-rev...

EPA reveals more evidence of widespread 'forever ...

Feb 7, 2024 — The latest test results released by the EPA tell only part of the story – the full scale of PFAS contamination is likely **much more widespread**.

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Environmental and Energy Study Institute

<https://www.eesi.org> › papers › view › issue-brief-the-sta...

The State of PFAS Forever Chemicals in America (2024) ...

Sep 6, 2024 — **Wide** usage over many decades has led to the presence of PFAS forever **chemicals** in soil and water, thus leading to the contamination of ...

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ACS Publications

<https://pubs.acs.org> › doi

PFAS Are Widespread, Not Ubiquitous - ACS Publications

by AK Tokranov — Along with the explosion of research interest in PFAS, there is growing recognition that these compounds are widely detected in the environment.

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Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (.gov)

<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov> › pfas › about

PFAS and Your Health | ATSDR

Jul 22, 2025 — PFAS are man-made chemicals used in products worldwide. **They are widespread in the environment** and found in people and animals across the globe.

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Stanford Medicine

<https://med.stanford.edu> › News Center

PFAS, aka 'forever chemicals': What the science says

Jul 25, 2024 — "I think it's a widespread public health concern because **virtually everyone is exposed.**" Patel said there are some easy steps most consumers can ...

[Pfas, Aka 'forever...](#)[The Background](#)[What The Science Says](#)Missing: ~~psoa~~ | Show results with: [psoa](#)

Yale Sustainability

<https://sustainability.yale.edu> › explainers › yale-experts...

Yale Experts Explain PFAS 'Forever Chemicals'

May 20, 2025 — PFAS, also known as “forever chemicals,” **have emerged as a serious environmental and public health threat** due to their persistence and widespread contamination.

[Why Are Pfas Called 'forever...](#)[What Are The Known Health...](#)[Has A Safe Level For Pfas...](#)Missing: ~~psoa~~ | Show results with: [psoa](#)

Scientific American

<https://www.scientificamerican.com> › article › forever-ch...

Forever Chemicals Are Widespread in U.S. Drinking Water

Jan 22, 2021 — Of the more than 9,000 known PFAS compounds, 600 are currently used in the U.S. in countless products, including firefighting foam, cookware, ...

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