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PFOS, specifically perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, was introduced in **1949** by the 3M company for use as a surfactant and in fabric protectors like Scotchgard. The first perfluorinated compound, PTFE (Teflon), was discovered by DuPont in 1938, with other PFAS chemicals also developed in the 1940s and 1950s for industrial and consumer applications.

Discovery and Commercialization

- **1938:** Roy J. Plunkett at DuPont accidentally invented PTFE (Teflon), a type of PFAS.
- **1949:** The 3M company introduced PFOS (perfluorooctane sulfonic acid).
- **1950s:** 3M began the mass production of PFOS-based compounds through electrochemical fluorination, and other PFAS chemicals also began to be commercialized.

Early Uses

- PFOS was used as a surfactant in various products, including fabric protectors (like Scotchgard), firefighting foams, and chemical mixtures for the photolithography industry.
- These chemicals have a stable structure, resisting heat, water, and grease, making them useful for products like non-stick coatings, waterproof apparel, and paper packaging.

The Beginnings of a "Forever Chemical"

- By the 1960s, PFAS chemicals were being incorporated into firefighting foams used by the U.S. Navy.
- As early as the 1970s, company scientists began to discover that PFOS and other PFAS chemicals could accumulate in the environment and biological systems, a



6 April 1938 Roy J. Plunkett (1910–1994), who was then a 27-year-old research chemist who worked at the DuPont's Jackson Laborator...

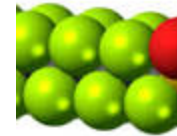
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Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid - Wikipedia

History. In 1949, 3M began producing PFOS-based compounds by electrochemical fluorination. In 1968, organofluorine compounds were ...

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The Social Life of the “Forever Chemical” in - Berghahn Journals

Late Industrialism. PFAS trace back to the 1930s, and companies such as 3M began to commercially produce PFAS chemicals in the 195...

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The history of PFAS: From World War II to your Teflon pan

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1902 John Dwan, Hermon Cable, Henry Bryan, and William A. · **1930** General Motors and DuPont formed Kinetic Chemicals to produce Freon. · **1935** On 22 January, E. I. ...



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PFAS

PFAS came into use with the invention of Teflon in **1938** to make fluoropolymer coatings and products that resist heat, oil, stains, grease, and water.

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The Evolution of PFAS

Jun 16, 2022 — A Brief History of PFAS. **1938** – Roy J. Plunkett invented Teflon, manufactured with Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), at DuPont's Jackson Laboratory ...



Wisconsin Department of Health Services (.gov)

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov> › chemical › pfas

Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) Substances



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by D Renfrew · 2021 · Cited by 61 — Two years after it began producing PFOA for DuPont, 3M **invented** its Scotchgard fabric coating, which utilized **PFOS**. Both Teflon and Scotchgard became iconic ...

Abstract

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Seeing PFAS Toxicity



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