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✦ AI Overview

Corporations haven't fully cleaned up PFAS contamination because there are no sufficient legal mandates for them to do so, the technologies to effectively remove these "forever chemicals" are limited, the true scope of the problem and the dangers of PFAS are still being understood, and industry lobbying efforts often push back against accountability and cost. Additionally, a lack of comprehensive regulation of the entire PFAS family of chemicals, coupled with loopholes that allow companies to avoid reporting discharges, also contributes to the slow pace of cleanup efforts. [↗](#)

Regulatory and Legal Barriers

Lack of Strong Regulations:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has not set legal limits for PFAS in drinking water or mandated manufacturers to lead the cleanup. [↗](#)

Industry Influence:

The chemical industry has significant influence over regulatory bodies and has lobbied for exemptions from cleanup responsibilities. [↗](#)

Loophole-Driven Regulation:

The regulatory approach has historically treated chemicals one by one, allowing companies to switch to different, less-studied PFAS chemicals to evade regulations. [↗](#)

Technological Limitations

Incomplete Removal:

Current remediation technologies are largely ineffective at completely removing all PFAS from the environment. They often concentrate PFAS into smaller volumes rather than destroying them. [↗](#)

Complex Degradation:

Even when long-chain PFAS are destroyed, they can break down into other, potentially more dangerous, short-chain PFAS or even gases. [↗](#)

Knowledge and Scope of the Problem [↗](#)

A Vast Chemical Family:

There are thousands of different PFAS chemicals, each with varying properties, making it challenging to identify and regulate them all.

Limited Data:

The EPA and other agencies still lack sufficient data on the toxic effects of many PFAS chemicals and their presence in the environment.

Industry Resistance and the "Wicked Problem"

Historical Knowledge and Delays:

Companies were aware of the potential dangers of PFAS as early as the 1950s but continued to produce and discharge them, often concealing the risks from the public. [↗](#)

Cost and Feasibility:

Eliminating PFAS from products can be challenging due to the lack of readily available alternatives, the cost of those alternatives, and the inadequate performance of some replacements. [↗](#)

Shift to Consumers:

Companies sometimes felt pressured to maintain PFAS products because consumers continued to buy them based on performance, pushing the cost of inaction onto communities. [↗](#)

3 Things You Can Do to Fight Toxic PFAS Forever Chemicals

Dec 6, 2023 — Currently, the EPA is considering polluter-pays action for two PFAS through the Superfund program. However, several ind...

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How Chemical Makers Hid the Truth About PFAS

Nov 8, 2023 — Weak Regulations Helped to Slow the Fight Against PFAS ... We now have thousands of PFAS that need investigation. This ...

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Why aren't chemical companies being forced to pay for ...

Because in the US the corporations that produce plastics are considered persons with Constitutional rights like due process, privacy, and equal ...



BBC

<https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20231016-clea...>

Can we take the 'forever' out of forever chemicals?

Oct 18, 2023 — Nicknamed "forever **chemicals**", **PFAS** are ubiquitous. Now, scientists are looking to nature for ways to **clean up** the **PFAS** mess.

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Barron's

<https://www.barrons.com/articles/forever-chemicals-...>

The PFAS Cleanup Is a \$200 Billion Job. 4 Companies ...

Mar 5, 2024 — Completely eliminating PFAS isn't likely, however, because they remain essential to some types of manufacturing. Cutting PFAS out of microchip ...



C&EN

<https://cen.acs.org/environment/persistent-pollutants>

Competition to destroy 'forever chemicals' heats up - C&EN

Mar 4, 2024 — Dozens of start-ups are working on technologies for destroying the chemicals, which have been linked to cancer and adverse effects on the liver ...

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PBS

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/science/pfas-are-ev...>

Why getting PFAS out of our products is so hard

Sep 28, 2022 — Those EPA advisories don't carry the force of law, **PFAS** are largely unregulated and nothing is stopping manufacturers from using the **chemicals** ...



NRDC

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

"Forever Chemicals" Called PFAS Show Up in Your Food, ...

Apr 12, 2023 — The reality is, we need to take action on the full class of these toxic "forever **chemicals**" to **clean them up**, phase **them** out, and then ban **them** ...

[Pfas In Clothes](#)[Pfas In Water](#)[Pfas In Food](#)

The Revelator
<https://therevelator.org> > [pfas-deregulation](#)

The Silent Threat Beneath Our Feet: How Deregulation ...

Feb 10, 2025 — The Trump administration has already rolled back planned limits on **PFAS chemicals**, which have been linked to cancer and other health problems.

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 — This white paper reviews the current extent of **PFAS** contamination, its effects on humans, the federal, state, and local landscape for regulating **PFAS**,

By Molly Brind'amour

Federal Regulation

State And Local Laws And...

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