



PFAS: Additional Information and FAQ

What are PFAS?

PFAS are Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl substances that are used in consumer products for their water, oil, grease, stain repellent and nonstick properties. It is estimated that there are over 9,000 substances that fall within this group and around 5,000 of those substances are globally marketed. PFAS has been widely used since the 1950's and can be found in nearly every type of product from textiles to cosmetics to food packaging. PFAS are known as "forever chemicals" because they are extremely stable and persistent in the environment and in the human body, meaning they do not break down and can accumulate over time.

What are the laws surrounding PFAS?

In the US, more than 20 states have adopted PFAS regulations, with many more bills currently being proposed. Most states focus on the presence of PFAS in consumer products, but states also have begun establishing data-gathering, testing, and reporting requirements on the presence of PFAS in the environment. Canada and Europe have already prohibited specific types of PFAS and in the EU there is a proposed ban on all PFAS chemicals that, if accepted, would likely become effective in 2025.

What products commonly contain PFAS?

Food Packaging - Used to prevent grease and water from soaking through food wrappers and beverage cups. PFAS can also be found in the ink used to print logos and instructions on food containers.

Fabrics and Textiles – Commonly found in stain and water-resistant fabrics. Carpets, furniture, bedding, and clothing can all contain PFAS. These fluorinated coatings are used to coat textiles to repel water, oil, and dirt.

Cosmetics – Intentionally added as ingredients in some cosmetic products, including lotions, cleansers, nail polish, shaving cream, foundation, lipstick, eyeliner, eyeshadow, and mascara. These PFAS are used in cosmetics to condition and smooth the skin, making it appear shiny, or to affect product consistency and texture.

Cookware - Nonstick cookware is commonly made with PTFE, a type of PFAS. Nonstick cookware may also contain PFOA, which creates nonstick properties. You cannot claim that your cookware is free of any specific chemical if the chemical belongs to a chemical group or class. For example, you cannot claim the product is free of PFOA if it still contains other PFAS, such as PTFE.

Other products that can contain PFAS include but are not limited to children's products, indoor and outdoor furnishings, ski wax and packaging.

What is URBN doing about PFAS?

Compliance with the URBN Restricted Substances List (RSL) has been and will continue to be mandatory for all products sold to URBN. URBN previously restricted the use of two common PFAS, PFOA/PFOS, and required compliance with Proposition 65, REACH, and EU POP Regulation. As the regulations surrounding PFAS are changing, URBN will now require vendors to test Total Organic Fluorine for products that make claims or use applicable functional finishings. Vendors must use the least toxic alternative if replacing PFAS chemicals in their products. Vendors may be required to provide a Certificate of Compliance and the certificate must be furnished within 5 days of request.

What do I do if my product fails?

Vendors must contact their buying or production partner if product fails Total Organic Fluorine testing to determine a resolution.

Where can I find more information?

For more information about PFAS in the US visit: [Saferstates.org](https://saferstates.org)

For more information about PFAS in the EU visit: [European Chemicals Agency](https://ec.europa.eu/chemicals/)

For more information about PFAS in Canada visit: [Health Canada](https://www.healthcanada.ca/)

Who should I reach out to if I have additional questions about URBN's PFAS approach?

If you have additional questions about how URBN is approaching PFAS regulations, please reach out to URBN's Regulatory Compliance Team.

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