

# PHASE OUT TOXIC PFAS CHEMICALS

Protect our public health and environment by turning off the tap of hazardous “forever chemicals.”

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**Toxic PFAS are contaminating our environment and threatening public health – especially for the most vulnerable Mainers.**

- So-called “forever chemicals,” toxic PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) pose significant health risks, particularly for pregnant women and children. They increase the risk of certain cancers, interfere with immune system responses, may lower a woman’s chance of getting pregnant, and have been associated with neurodevelopmental issues.
- Low income communities, communities of color, and tribal and rural communities are disproportionately impacted and more susceptible to health and financial impacts of PFAS contamination.
- PFAS have contaminated water and soil across the state, harming our environment and contaminating farmland and drinking water.
- Many PFAS do not break down and remain in the environment unless cleaned up.

**PFAS are widespread and clean-up is expensive.**

- PFAS are used in thousands of everyday products including cookware, clothing, food packaging, textiles, and car seats. Most of these uses could be substituted for safer alternatives, although a handful of uses important to health and safety may not have an immediately available substitute.
- The cost of disposal of PFAS contaminated waste is falling to municipalities, which are already facing budget shortfalls.
- We can break the cycle of contamination and clean-up by phasing out PFAS in consumer and industrial products.

**We must “turn off the tap” of toxic PFAS to protect Maine people and our environment.**

- **Require that manufacturers disclose PFAS use and pay a reporting fee:** Reporting fees would fund a source-reduction program to provide technical assistance, education, and grants to publicly owned treatment works and municipalities to reduce PFAS entering the waste stream. This would both reduce contamination and put some of the cost where it belongs: on the manufacturers of the toxic products.
- **Begin phasing out the use of PFAS in non-essential products:** This bill would ban the use of PFAS in residential carpets, rugs, and fabric treatments by 2023. Major manufacturers and retailers are already taking this action voluntarily. The law grants authority to the DEP to ban the use of PFAS in other categories of products where alternatives are available.
- Effective in 2032, the bill prohibits the sale of products containing intentionally added PFAS unless the DEP has specifically designated them as being an essential use of PFAS.



**SUPPORT THE REPORTING AND PHASE OUT OF PFAS.**

For more information, please contact Sarah Woodbury, Defend Our Health at 207-699-5791 or [swoodbury@defendourhealth.org](mailto:swoodbury@defendourhealth.org).

# Environmental Priorities Coalition



Maine's Environmental Priorities Coalition is a partnership of 32 environmental, conservation, and public health organizations representing over 100,000 members who want to protect the good health, good jobs, and quality of life that our environment provides.

We are counting on Maine policymakers to take the important steps needed to protect Maine's extraordinary environment so Maine people and Maine communities can thrive.

