

PFAS Timeline



1938:

- Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are invented.

1940s:

- PFAS industrial production begins.

1950s:

- PFAS start being used in consumer products.

1970s:

- Company scientists learn that two types of PFAS chemicals, perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS), are toxic from animal and workplace studies.

Early 2000s:

- Independent scientists discover several types of PFAS are widely present in people's blood.
- Studies show widespread PFAS contamination in the outdoor environment.
- PFOA and PFOS start being phased out of production in the U.S.

2008:

- State scientists start looking for PFAS in Washington's outdoor environment.
- State scientists find PFAS in surface water.
- State scientists find PFAS in osprey eggs and freshwater fish.

2009-2010:

- Scientists find PFAS in marine water and freshwater near wastewater treatment plants.

2013-2015:

- PFAS detected in drinking water in Issaquah, DuPont, and at Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

2016:

- Dept. of Health and Dept. of Ecology start work on State Chemical Action Plan.
- PFAS detected on Whidbey Island near military base.
- Military starts sampling drinking water at other bases for PFAS.
- Second statewide study of PFAS in surface water begins.
- EPA establishes Lifetime Health Advisory Level (HAL) at 70 parts per trillion for PFOA and PFOS.

2017:

- PFAS discovered in drinking water at Fairchild Airforce Base and Airway Heights.

2018:

- State bans PFAS in paper food packaging.
- State bans PFAS in AFFF firefighting foam.

2020-2022:

- PFAS found in drinking water around Yakima Training Center.

2021:

- State Action Levels for drinking water are adopted for 5 types of PFAS by State Board of Health.

2022:

- State adopts recommended cleanup standards for 6 types of PFAS.
- EPA releases interim Lifetime Health Advisory Level for PFOA and PFOS. For PFOA, the new interim level is 0.004 parts per trillion. For PFOS, the new interim level is 0.02 parts per trillion.
- PFOS Fish Consumption Advisory issued for Lake Washington, Lake Sammamish, and Lake Meridian.

2023:

- Public comment period opens on proposed rule to ban PFAS in 3 types of consumer products in our state.

