

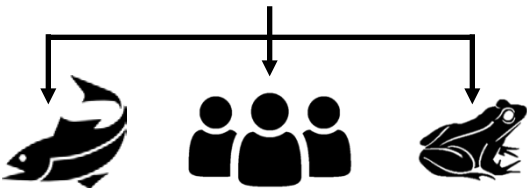
## What is “PFAS” & what does it do?

PFAS stands for “Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances” and a group of manmade chemicals that have been widely used since the 1940’s.



PFAS is commonly used to make products that are heat, water, or oil resistant and are so useful they are found everywhere within our world!

**BUT... There’s a catch!**



PFAS may negatively impact child development, cause reproductive harm, immunological problems, and maybe linked to other health issues.

This is why we need to be careful about buying new products that contain PFAS, and its use in the homestead. This can be very difficult since the chemicals are so popular! The reverse of this pamphlet contains suggestions on what you can do to help!

## Products that may contain PFAS

Outdoor Apparel

Coated Paper

Personal Care Products

Food Packaging

Cleaning Agents

Paints / Coatings / Sealants

Nonstick Cookware

Stain resistant clothing, furnishing, & carpets



## What can I do to help?

1. Read labels and research products to find PFAS-free replacements.
2. Check out [www.pfascentral.org](http://www.pfascentral.org) to help you understand PFAS in your world.
3. Talk to your local legislator or state’s representative and ask for legislative action to better control the manufacturing and use of PFAS in commerce.



## How does PFAS affect your local wastewater treatment facility and YOU?

Drafted by:

**The Northeast Biosolids Improvement Program**

*A collaborative workgroup of northeast wastewater professional, state regulators, septage haulers, and wastewater engineers*



Including...

- What is PFAS?
- How PFAS affects wastewater and gets into our environment?
- What can you do to limit PFAS usage at home

# PFAS in Wastewater

When you wash items that contain PFAS compounds some of the chemicals are drawn out of the item, be it clothing, dishware, or furniture, those chemicals ultimately end up in your wastewater and into the city sewers or into your own septic tank.

PFAS cannot break down in the environment easily, which makes them 'forever chemicals.' Once these chemicals enter our water cycle via wastewater, it is very hard to get them out.

Even though wastewater treatment facilities are extremely good at removing the solids from wastewater and treating the discharged water, they are not designed to remove PFAS compounds. While there are ways to update drinking water treatment facilities to remove PFAS from water, technology has not caught up yet to remove PFAS from wastewater, septage, or sludge affordably.

In addition, there may soon be new soil and sludge standards that limit the amount of PFAS allowed in biosolids for land application in your state. These standards are very important for protecting human health and the environment. These changes may increase the rate payers bill to address for these impacts.

