

Protect Maryland by REDUCING PFAS IN PESTICIDES

Protect Marylanders from Forever Chemicals

Some pesticides are much more dangerous to human health and our environment because they contain **PFAS**, also known as *forever chemicals*.

What Are Forever Chemicals?

A class of fluorinated chemicals, PFAS are known as *forever chemicals* because they do not break down in the environment. PFAS remediation is a massive problem and emerging technologies are limited and extremely expensive. These heavy costs will ultimately fall on communities, counties, and states. PFAS are already in our drinking water, in the Chesapeake Bay,¹ and in our soil, food,² and bodies.³ Nearly every U.S. resident now carries measurable levels of PFAS in their blood.⁴ Every exposure adds to the impact on our bodies.

The Problem

Maryland registers over 14,000 pesticides annually and over 1,000 contain toxic forever chemicals as their **active** ingredient. These pesticides are used widely in agriculture, homes, emergency rooms, health care facilities, and schools — among people who are already vulnerable. Also alarming is that there is no research on the synergistic effects of combining these *forever chemicals* with toxic pesticides that already have adverse health impacts.

Maryland has issued fish consumption warnings for PFAS in 15 fish species in the Bay watershed. Testing has found PFAS in drinking water from household taps in Maryland’s Montgomery County⁵ and other locations around the state.



Even low PFAS exposure is linked to many long-term serious health impacts, including:^{6,7}



Birth Defects



Developmental Damage to Infants



High Cholesterol



Impaired Functioning of the Liver, Kidneys, and Immune System



Kidney, Testicular, and Breast Cancer



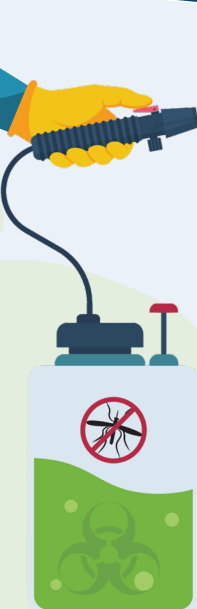
Less Effective Vaccine Response



More Serious Covid-19 Outcomes



Thyroid Disease



“ IF THE INTENT WAS TO SPREAD PFAS CONTAMINATION ACROSS THE GLOBE THERE WOULD BE FEW MORE EFFECTIVE METHODS THAN LACING PESTICIDES WITH PFAS.”

— Kyla Bennett, PEER Science Policy Director, attorney & scientist formerly with EPA

It's Not Too Late

The good news is we can stop further contamination from known PFAS pesticides. We can turn off *this* tap. Yes, forever chemicals are already here, but we can stop adding to the damage. There are numerous pesticides that can easily replace PFAS pesticides for all uses.

Our legislators can make a difference.

Maine and Minnesota have already passed laws preventing pesticides containing these forever chemicals from being sold. This General Assembly session, Maryland's leaders and elected officials can do the same.

We can stop adding to the problem and compounding damage already done. We **can** remove PFAS from pesticides — and protect our families and future generations.

We look forward to urging the Maryland General Assembly next year to help keep all Marylanders, especially children, pregnant women, families, the elderly — and our environment — safer from the life-threatening effects of PFAS when used as a pesticide's active ingredient.



For more information: email info@mdpestnet.org and visit smartonpesticides.org

¹ <https://www.ewg.org/research/national-pfas-testing>

² <https://www.fda.gov/food/chemical-contaminants-food/testing-food-pfas-and-assessing-dietary-exposure>

³ https://www.cdc.gov/biomonitoring/PFAS_FactSheet.html

⁴ <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/pesticides-are-spreading-toxic-forever-chemicals-scientists-warn>

⁵ https://www.bayjournal.com/news/fisheries/forever-chemicals-found-in-chesapeake-seafood-and-maryland-drinking-water/article_2aa7a82a-28fa-11eb-ac61-9f14273a6e14.html

⁶ https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/health-effects/index.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.atsdr.cdc.gov%2Fpfas%2Fhealth-effects.html

⁷ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6380916>