

PFAS' Footprint Through the Apparel Supply Chain



1 PFAS in the Workplace

Within the most unregulated factories, workers can face exposure to harmful PFAS, especially in the wet processing stage. This is when chemicals and colourants are added (ex. pre-treatment, dyeing, digital printing, etc.)



2 Air Pollution

PFAS released into the air by manufacturing facilities falls into the ocean, lakes, rivers, and streams – directly or via rainwater - across the world.

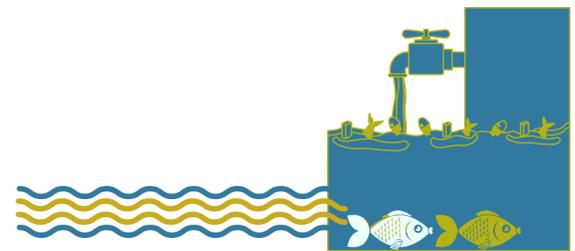


4 Community Agriculture

PFAS flow into community water streams and can reach soil used for agriculture. The closer agriculture is to a major garment factory, the greater the risk.



3

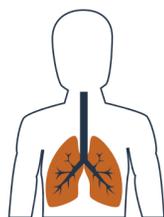


Waterway Pollution

Large amounts of runoff from production facilities lacking wastewater treatment has led to PFAS contamination in local waterways. PFAS chemicals don't break down well, making them very mobile and widespread in the U.S. and across the globe.



5 Ingesting PFAS



Clothing can also shed PFAS, which can attach to dust in homes and be breathed in or ingested by children, especially when they put their hands or clothes in their mouth.

6 PFAS in Landfills

Clothing coated with PFAS are often sent to landfills or incinerated, which can release PFAS pollution into our waterways. A 2021 study found 70 PFAS chemicals contained in carpet and clothing are likely sources of PFAS contamination in water seeping from landfills.



PFAS Factsheet

How and where is PFAS used?

PFAS are commonly used as coatings or in membranes to make our apparel products waterproof, stain resistant and breathable. A 2019 [European Commission report](#) found that within the consumer apparel category, 20% of indoor and outdoor products and 10% of sportswear and footwear products in Europe are coated in PFAS.

Understanding PFAS use in apparel

Oftentimes you can spot PFAS when you see the labels for Durable Water Repellency (DWR), "Water-Resistant" or "Stain-Resistant."

PFAS don't add an essential use to products, and safer alternatives are available. You can have confidence that a PFAS-free rain jacket can keep you dry on a rainy day.

Brands leading the way towards being PFAS-free

Levi's is leading the apparel industry and have already eliminated PFAS as well as Victoria Secret. Ralph Lauren and Gap Inc. (including Old Navy), has committed to phase out all PFAS from their apparel by the end of 2022. Polartec® is a manufacturer that is already producing PFAS-free functional and waterproof products.

Are there any PFAS-free certifications?

[Made Safe](#) is the one certification which guarantees that no PFAS were used in the manufacturing of the apparel product.