



# PFAS Issues: U.S. and New Mexico



Image: <https://www.sixclasses.org/videos/pfas>



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U.S. and New Mexico big box furniture stores in New Mexico



"Allaway Fabric Protectant is a water-based product used to protect fabrics against soiling from standard household stains. Allaway Fabric Protectant is water-based, non-toxic and non-hazardous."

For comparison, the concentration of PFOA in this product is 50x higher than U.S. EPA's drinking water standard.

"Ingredients: Purified Water, C-6 Fluoropolymer, cation surfactant."



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New baby textile product tests show concerning levels of toxic 'forever chemicals'



**Environmental Working Group**

<https://www.ewg.org/news-insights/news/2022/11/new-baby-textile-product-tests-show-concerning-levels-toxic-forever>

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- High levels of the “forever chemicals” known as PFAS appear in some baby textile products in new test results, consistent with findings from other textile category tests.
  - Babies and kids are especially vulnerable to the toxic effects of PFAS exposure.
  - The federal government must act immediately to regulate and ban these chemicals.
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## Long Chain PFAS Health Impacts (6 or more carbon atoms)

**Cancer:** Linked to kidney, testicular, and breast cancers.

**Endocrine Disruption:** Interference with thyroid function, leading to hypothyroidism or other thyroid disorders.

**Immune System Suppression:** Reduced vaccine response and weakened immunity.

**Liver Damage:** Elevated liver enzymes, leading to liver toxicity and potential damage over time.

**Developmental Issues:** Impaired fetal development, low birth weight, skeletal variation, and developmental delay.

**Cholesterol Elevation:** Increased levels of total cholesterol and low-density lipoprotein (LDL).

**Reproductive Effects:** Disrupted fertility in both men and women, menstrual irregularities/lower sperm quality.

**Kidney and Liver Disease:** Increased risks of chronic kidney disease and non-alcoholic fatty liver disease.

## Short Chain PFAS Health Impacts (6 or less carbon atoms)

**Thyroid Dysfunction:** Still associated with disruptions to thyroid hormone production, but generally to a lesser degree than long-chain PFAS.

**Liver Effects:** May cause liver toxicity, although the effects are typically less severe than those from long-chain PFAS.

**Immune System Effects:** Some short-chain PFAS have been shown to suppress immune function, but evidence is less consistent compared to long-chain PFAS.

**Kidney Effects:** Short-chain PFAS may still affect kidney function, though they are excreted more rapidly from the body.

**Potential for Developmental Toxicity:** Although evidence is less robust, some studies suggest that short-chain PFAS may affect fetal development and lead to lower birth weights.





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## PFAS Protection Act

Starting in 2027, certain consumer products, including cookware, food packaging, juvenile products, dental floss, and firefighting foam that contain intentionally added PFAS will largely be prohibited from sale unless otherwise deemed essential — protecting you and your family.

In 2028, additional consumer products, including carpet and rugs, cleaning supplies, feminine hygiene products, and cosmetics that contain intentionally added PFAS will be largely prohibited from sale unless otherwise deemed essential.

In 2032, other products with intentionally added PFAS that are not otherwise exempt will be prohibited from sale.

**Children, who make up nearly a quarter of New Mexico's population,** are particularly at risk for health complications caused by PFAS exposure, including developmental issues, immune system problems, increased cholesterol, and even reduced vaccine effectiveness. Prenatal exposure from a mother to child may continue with breastfeeding.

Children are further exposed to PFAS through juvenile products, as well as cookware, home furnishings, and cleaning supplies. Juvenile products can include bath items, diapers, sleep equipment, playtime toys, and feeding supplies.

*Thank you to our House Bill 212 Sponsor(s): Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary, Rep. Debra Sarinana, Rep. Kathleen Cates, Sen. Jeff Steinborn*