



# CRWC

CLINTON RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL



# A CITIZENS GUIDE TO PFAS

When rain falls and snow melts, the runoff produced picks up a variety of contaminants such as oil, metals, salts, pet waste, fertilizer, and grass clippings as it flows over roofs, roadways, sidewalks and lawns.

Stormwater runoff ultimately flows into storm drains.

Remember: storm drains lead directly to our local rivers and streams.

## WHAT ARE PFAS, PFOS, AND PFOAS?

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of man-made chemicals that have been used since the 1940s in industrial and commercial products. They are known as “forever chemicals” because of how slowly they break down in the environment, and the way they build up in the bodies of people and animals.

## ARE PFAS CHEMICALS HARMFUL?

PFAS and other chemicals are known to cause harm in people, plants, and animals. They can interrupt hormone function, increase risk of some cancers, weaken immune systems, and can cause developmental delays. They are very difficult to remove once they have contaminated a site.

## WHERE DO PFAS COME FROM?

PFAS chemicals are found in many products that are used every day. Some examples are, fire extinguishers, nonstick pots and pans, stain resistant fabrics, and many other products. PFAS ends up in water from improper disposal, or stormwater runoff carrying it from a source location, such as a factory or military training site.



Original graphic via Australia Department of Defense

## WHAT IS BEING DONE TO REMOVE PFAS FROM THE ENVIRONMENT?

Several kinds PFAS chemicals have been banned, though their replacements are still under review for their long-term effects on people and the environment. Many contaminated sites are being treated and managed by organizations such as the Environmental Protection Agency. Activated carbon filters, reverse osmosis, and ion-exchange treatments are several ways that PFAS is removed from drinking water.

To explore known PFAS contaminations across the US:  
[https://www.ewg.org/interactive-maps/pfas\\_contamination/map](https://www.ewg.org/interactive-maps/pfas_contamination/map)

For more information straight from EGLE:  
<https://www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse>

VISIT US AT [CRWC.ORG](http://CRWC.ORG)



@CLINTONRIVERWATERSHED



CLINTON RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY

This project has been funded wholly or in part through Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy's Nonpoint Source Program using Watershed Council Support funds.