



Notice about Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAs)

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAs) are substances that contains carbon-fluorine bonds. This class contains thousands of chemicals that are used notably to increase resistance to oil, water and dirt. This resistance is a highly desirable feature for plenty of applications which explain the wide use of PFAs in our society. As a result, PFAs are getting into the environment via manufacturing processes but also diffusing from end-products.

However, as carbon-fluorine bonds are one of the strongest in chemistry PFAs are breaking down extremely slowly. Because of this they accumulate in the environment, polluting soils, surface water and ground water. Cleaning up polluted sites is complex and expensive. Moreover, PFAs also accumulate in living beings through the food chain and some PFAs have been shown to be toxic for humans.

As a results, several king of PFAs like perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and its compounds are already banned in Europe under the Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Regulation. Perfluorinated carboxylic acids (C9-21 PFCAs) are also restricted under REACH from February 2023 onwards. Other PFAs are still being evaluated on their potential risk.

In the United States of America, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is working toward preventing PFAs from getting into the environment too. Regulation are being enacted around products that contains PFAs.

Ecological Fibers has verified that the paper mills do not purposely add PFAs to any line of Brava™ wall coverings. Furthermore, any coating, embossing or converting operations in the Ecological Fibers, Inc. plants do not add any PFAs to the product lines.

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