

Statement from 3M to Vox.com regarding PFAS:

Fluorochemistries are Essential to Modern Life

Fluorochemistries, which include PFAS, are important materials that are used in everyday products. Fluorochemistries are safely used in many modern products for their important properties and can be safely manufactured.

Many fluorochemistries are essential to make products we need possible – including life-saving drugs and medications, the cars we drive, smartphones and computers. Some products, like semiconductors used in modern electronics, cannot be made without the use of fluorochemistries.

There are thousands of unique fluorochemistries, and no two are exactly alike. 3M is one of a number of U.S. companies that have developed and produced fluorochemicals.

PFAS and Health Science

*While some studies have linked legacy fluorochemicals to some conditions at very high doses not typically found in everyday life, **researchers from around the world have studied these materials for decades and haven't found a definitive causal link between PFOA or PFOS exposure and any health condition.***

Global health agencies and researchers acknowledge the limited nature of evidence indicating that PFAS cause harmful effects for specific health endpoints.

For example:

- *The U.S. Centers for Disease Control's Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry has publicly stated that, "the available human studies have identified some potential targets of toxicity; however, cause-and-effect relationships have not been established for any of the effects, and the effects have not been consistently found in all studies."*
- *The International Agency for Research on Cancer has stated that overall there is "limited evidence in humans for the carcinogenicity of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)".*
- *An expert panel commissioned by the Australian government in 2018 to assess the scientific evidence regarding PFAS and health effects concluded "there is no current evidence that suggests an increase in overall cancer risk."*

3M Continuously Innovates New Solutions

3M is taking proactive steps to reduce our reliance on persistent materials through innovation.

Where we cannot find substitutions for fluorochemistries due to their unique characteristics, we are actively reducing discharges from our facilities and have made significant progress. We are deeply focused on making and using these materials responsibly.