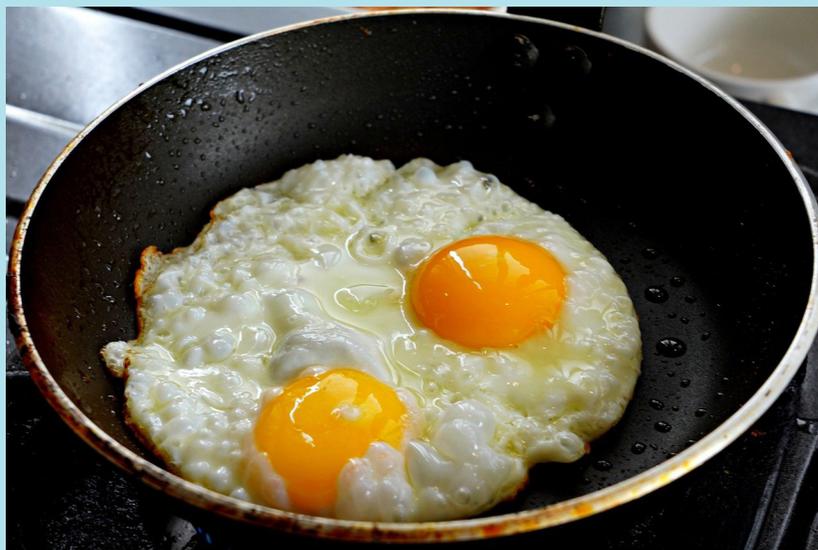


# PFAS

## (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances)



Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a large group of man-made chemicals used in a variety of industries around the globe. Known for their resistance to heat, water, and oil, PFAS have been used since the 1950s in products like non-stick cookware, water-repellent clothing, stain-resistant fabrics, and firefighting foams.

PFAS are known for their strong carbon-fluorine bonds, making them highly resistant to degradation in the environment. Often referred to as “forever chemicals,” PFAS can remain in the environment and human body for extended periods.

### Sources of PFAS

- Industrial Sites: Manufacturing facilities that produce or use PFAS.
- Consumer Products: Non-stick cookware, water-resistant clothing, stain-resistant carpets and furniture.
- Firefighting Foams: Used in training and emergency response situations, particularly at airports and military bases.
- Food Packaging: Grease-resistant paper, fast food wrappers, and microwave popcorn bags.

### Health Effects

- Research has linked PFAS exposure to several health issues, although more studies are needed to fully understand their impact.

### Environmental Impact

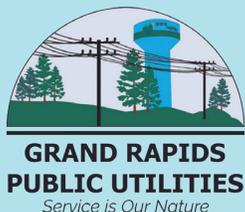
- PFAS can migrate into groundwater and surface water sources, posing risks to drinking water supplies.
- These substances can accumulate in the bodies of fish and wildlife, leading to higher concentrations up the food chain.

### Reducing Exposure

- Opt for PFAS-free products when possible, such as cookware and clothing.
- Use water filters certified to remove PFAS from drinking water.



For more information on PFAS, visit: [www.pca.state.mn.us/pfas-in-minnesota](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/pfas-in-minnesota)



*Grand Rapids Public Utilities (GRPU) is a municipal utility established by the City of Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Utilities under the jurisdiction of the GRPU include electric distribution, water treatment and distribution, and wastewater collection and treatment.*

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