



ask the
EXPERT
eurofins

Q & A WITH...



PFAS, CONTAMINANTS OF EMERGING CONCERN,
NON-TARGET ANALYSIS, LC-HRMS
EXPERT

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Environment Testing

Q: As a PFAS expert, where are "forever chemicals" most commonly found in our daily lives, and what is the biggest health concern for the average person?



A: PFAS are commonly found in nonstick cookware, waterproof clothing, fast food wrappers, and cosmetics. The biggest health concern is their link to cancer, immune system suppression, and hormone disruption due to bioaccumulation over time.





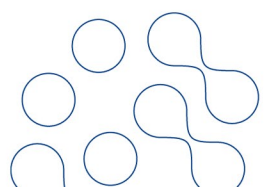
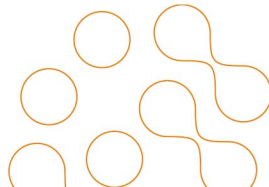
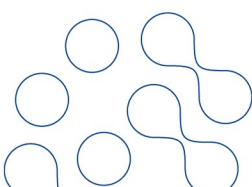
Q: Besides PFAS, what common item in our homes-like cosmetics or flame retardants-is introducing the most concerning chemical to our environment?

A: Carpeting, flooring, and electronics may contain microplastics, plastic additives, and flame retardants that can leach into house dust and accumulate into our bodies. Some of these compounds have been linked to hormone disruption, developmental delays, and cancer, making them some of the most troubling household pollutants after PFAS.

Q: What mysteries can non-targeted analysis uncover?



A: A non-targeted analysis of raw wastewater, for example, can reveal pharmaceuticals and personal care products (PPCP)s, drugs of abuse, PFAS, and pesticides that are not typically monitored in influent or effluent samples. These contaminants can pose ecological risks and highlight gaps in wastewater treatment and environmental surveillance.





Q: Considering AFFF and industrial sites, how long do contaminants remain a threat to nearby communities, and what are the main hurdles in cleaning them up?

A: PFAS persistence depends on site activity, PFAS chain length, and many other geochemical factors. Short-chain PFAS migrate faster than long-chains and linear isomers move faster than branched. Cationic and zwitterionic PFAS bind to soils until they degrade into terminal PFAAs, then begin their environmental transport.

