



Contaminants of Emerging Concern Ecology Actions

October 13, 2025



Water Quality

PFAS permit actions



IU to POTW permits (Ecology as Control Authority)

Applicability:

- Known presence/history of AFFF use
- Industry types specified in EPA PFAS Strategic Roadmap (OCPSF, metal finishing – chrome ops, electronic components, pulp and paper, leather tanning, plastics, textile mills, paint formulating, airports)
- Other dependent on investigation during permit application or renewal

Requirements:

- Quarterly effluent monitoring for 2 years, using EPA Method 1633
- Source identification report if PFAS detected

POTW permits

Applicability:

- Delegated POTWs
- Non-delegated POTWs with design flow >5MGD or IUs likely to have PFAS
- Discharge to waterbodies or groundwater with identified health or aquatic life impacts from PFAS
- Discharges to a drinking water source
- Reclaimed water used for aquifer recharge or stream augmentation

Requirements:

- Quarterly influent monitoring for 2 years, using EPA Method 1633
- Source identification utilizing existing program or IU surveys

Other WQ Permits

Industrial NPDES individual

- Similar applicability and requirements as the IU to POTW permit requirements

Industrial Stormwater General Permit

- PFAS monitoring requirements for air transportation (481xxx – 18 sites) and waste management facilities (562xxx – 104 sites)



WQ individual permits with PFAS conditions

Permit type	# of permits
IU to POTW SWDP (SIC)	8
Metal finishing (3471)	2
Waste transfer stations (4953)	3
Semiconductor mfg (3674)	1
Chemical product mfg (2819)	1
Naval base (9711)	1
Municipal NPDES	7
Industrial NPDES (SIC)	9
Petroleum refining (2911)	4
Ship building and repair (3731)	2
Landfill (4953)	2
Paper mill (2611)	1

As of September 2025



Biosolids

PFAS monitoring





Senate Bill 5033

Signed into law May 17, 2025

Introduces sampling and analysis requirements for PFAS for facilities regulated under the Biosolids General Permit

Implementation timeline

July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026	Ecology seeks input on sampling guidance requirements.
July 1, 2026	Ecology publishes guidance clarifying sampling requirements.
Jan. 1, 2027 – June 30, 2028	Facilities must sample certain biosolids for PFAS chemicals using EPA method 1633A, starting no later than Jan. 1, 2027 and ending June 30, 2028.
Sept. 30, 2028	Facilities must provide all sampling results to Ecology.
Oct. 1, 2028 – March 31, 2029	Ecology analyzes the levels of PFAS chemicals in biosolids produced in and/or land applied in Washington, establishes and consults with an advisory committee to develop recommended next steps based on the analysis, and drafts the legislative report.
July 1, 2029	Ecology submits the report to the legislature and the public.

[Learn about biosolids - Washington State Department of Ecology](#)

Assessment of biosolids in WA

Sampling project conducted by Ecology, separate from but will inform implementation of SB 5033

- Biosolids from 44 WWTPs sampled in 2024
- Mix of different size, treatment, locations, and populations served
- EPA Method 1633 for 40 analytes, focus on PFOA and PFOS

[Access the report](#)

Assessment of biosolids in WA

Key findings

- PFAS are widespread
- Method limitations
- Consistent results in dewatered biosolids
- Multiple sources
- Future sampling





Other Ecology actions

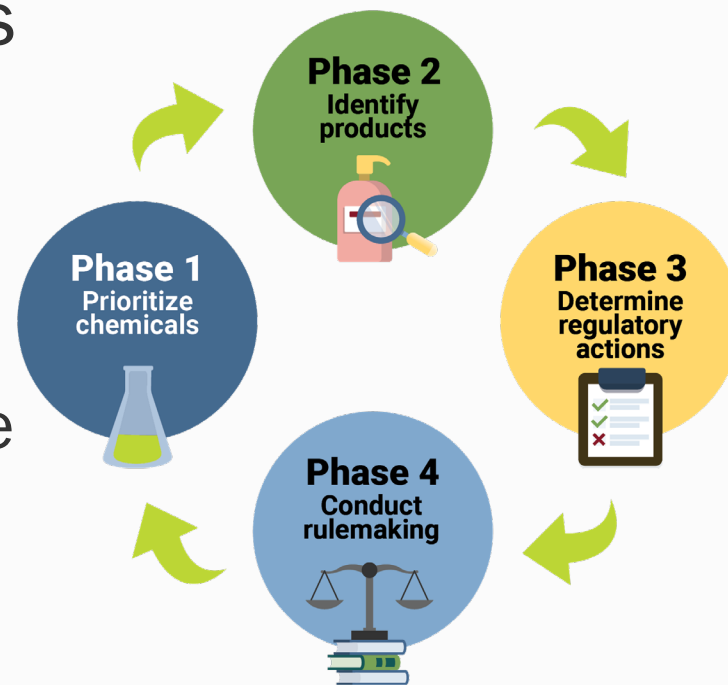
Reducing sources through restrictions in consumer products



Safer Products for Washington

Evaluates chemical-product combinations in 5-year cycles

- Restricts when safer alternatives are available
- Requires reporting of toxic chemical use when alternatives are not available
- Send suggestions for chemicals and products to evaluate to SaferProductsWA@ecy.wa.gov



Safer Products – Adopted rule

went into effect July 1, 2023

- Restricts
 - PFAS in aftermarket stain- and water- resistance treatments, carpets and rugs, and leather and textile furniture and furnishing intended for *indoor use*
 - Ortho-phthalates in vinyl flooring and PCP fragrances
 - Organohalogen flame retardants in electric and electronic products
 - Flame retardants in recreational foam
 - Phenolic compounds in laundry detergent, food and drink can linings, and thermal paper
- Requires reporting of intentionally added PFAS in
 - Leather and textile furniture and furnishing intended for *outdoor use*

Safer Products – Proposed rule

public comment June-July 2025

- Restricts intentionally added PFAS
 - Apparel and accessories
 - Automotive washes
 - Cleaning products
- Requires reporting of intentionally added PFAS
 - Apparel for extreme and extended use
 - Footwear
 - Gear for recreation and travel
 - Automotive waxes
 - Cookware and kitchen supplies
 - Firefighting personal protective equipment (PPE)
 - Floor waxes and polishes
 - Hard surface sealers
 - Ski waxes

Safer Products – Under review

New		Continuing work	
Priority consumer product	Priority chemical/chemical class	Priority consumer product	Priority chemical/chemical class
Artificial turf	6PPD (N-(1,3-dimethylbutyl)-N'-phenyl-p-phenylenediamine)	Cookware and kitchen supplies	PFAS
	<i>and</i> Per and polyfluoroalkyl substances (commonly called PFAS)	Firefighting PPE	PFAS
Cosmetics	Cyclic volatile methylsiloxanes (commonly referred to as cVMS)	Hard surface sealers	PFAS
Insulation	Organohalogen flame retardants (commonly referred to as OFRs)	Floor waxes and polishes	PFAS
	Cadmium and cadmium compounds	Motor vehicle tires	6PPD
Jewelry and accessories	<i>and</i> Lead and lead compounds	Printing inks	Polychlorinated biphenyls (commonly called PCBs)
Nail products	Benzene, ethyl benzene, toluene, and xylene substances (also known as BTEX) substances		
Architectural paints	Alkylphenol ethoxylates (sometimes referred to as APEs)		
	<i>and</i> PFAS		
Plastic packaging	Organobromine or organochlorine substances		
Sealants, caulks, and adhesives	Ortho-phthalates		
Solid deodorizers	Organobromine or organochlorine substances		

Other WA toxics in products laws

- Food packaging with intentionally added PFAS may not be manufactured, sold, or distributed
- Toxic-Free Cosmetics Act restricts intentionally added PFAS
- Firefighting Agents and Equipment law
 - Restricts PFAS-containing class B firefighting foams for training
 - Requires manufacturers of firefighting PPE containing PFAS to notify buyers in WA
 - Requires part 139 airports to transition to non-PFAS firefighting agents



Thank you

Maia Hoffman, P.E.

Permit Manager/Statewide Pretreatment Lead

maia.hoffman@ecy.wa.gov

425-507-5681