

What is PFOA?

- PFOA is an essential processing aid used to produce fluoropolymer high-performance materials. Fluoropolymers are used in architectural fabrics; chemical processing piping and vessels; automotive fuel systems; telecommunications and electronic wiring insulation; and computer chip processing equipment and systems – in addition to consumer products such as cookware and apparel.
The aerospace, transportation and electronics industries rely on products manufactured using PFOA for purity, reliability and durability of many of their key systems.
- PFOA may be found at very low trace levels in some fluorotelomers. Fluorotelomer derivatives are a family of compounds used as ingredients in making firefighting foams and coatings because of their unique properties. They are also intermediates, or building blocks, used to manufacture stain-, oil- and water-resistant additives for some textiles, paper, coatings and other surfaces.
- To date, no human health effects are known to be caused by PFOA.
- PFOA is biopersistent and has been detected at very low concentrations in the blood of the general population. Therefore, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has decided to seek additional information about PFOA. We fully support the EPA and share their commitment to protect human health and the environment.
- Products sold under the Teflon® brand are safe for consumers to use.
- The U.S. EPA has said it “does not believe there is any reason for consumers to stop using any consumer or industrial-related products” because of questions about PFOA.
- DuPont has voluntarily committed to working with the EPA and others to conduct the research necessary to address any questions about PFOA. We also have taken a number of actions to reduce our emissions of PFOA by 90% on a global basis.
- We would support EPA regulations based on sound science. We believe this would confirm to consumers that the products they use are safe for human health and the environment.

PFOA – Fluoropolymer Chemistry

- PFOA is used in the manufacture of fluoropolymers. Fluoropolymers are industrial materials used primarily in the automotive, electronics, chemical processing and aerospace industries, as well as in some consumer applications such as cookware.
- Our research has been unable to detect the presence of PFOA in cookware products made with DuPont non-stick coatings, including those under the Teflon® brand.

- PFOA also is removed throughout the manufacturing value chain for virtually all industrial fluoropolymers. Testing has shown that industrial products may contain trace or non-detectable levels of PFOA.
- In line with our commitment to protect human health and the environment, DuPont has led the fluoropolymer industry in both expanding the body of knowledge about PFOA and in improving product stewardship.

PFOA – Telomer Chemistry

- PFOA is **not** used to make a different family of chemicals, called telomers or fluorotelomers, that are used to make soil, stain and grease repellents for paper, apparel, upholstery and carpets, some of which are sold under the Teflon® brand.
- Telomer chemistry is not made with PFOA, nor is PFOA added during the manufacture of telomer-based products; telomer chemistry, however, may produce trace amounts of PFOA as an unintended by-product of the manufacturing process.
- In cooperation with the U.S. EPA and others, research is under way to determine the potential presence of PFOA in a wide range of consumer products. A scientific study sponsored by DuPont (June 2004) reaffirmed that consumer articles made with the company's materials are safe to use and that there is no risk to consumers from potential exposure to trace levels of PFOA.
- In line with our commitment to protect human health and the environment, DuPont has led the industry in both expanding the body of knowledge about PFOA and in improving product stewardship.

PFOA: Safety

- PFOA has been used safely by DuPont and others for more than 50 years with no known human health effects to date.
- Consumer products sold under the Teflon® brand are safe for consumers to use.
- There is an extensive scientific database made up of both employee surveillance and peer-reviewed, published articles that support the conclusion that PFOA is safe as used.
- DuPont is committed to continuously evaluating and improving the safety of its products and processes.
- DuPont is actively working with the EPA and others to address questions about PFOA and has either completed or is conducting testing programs to address these questions.

PFOA: Human Health

- To date, no human health effects are known to be caused by PFOA.

- PFOA is a biopersistent compound. This means that it can remain in the body or environment for an extended period of time after exposure. However, does not bioaccumulate, which means it does not build up in the food chain.
- PFOA is currently unregulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- PFOA is not a genotoxin (it does not affect DNA).
- PFOA is not a reproductive toxin
- PFOA is not a human carcinogen.