

BIOSOLIDS & PFAS



Organic chemicals like PFAS have been used in society for more than 50 years.



Variable levels of PFAS can be found in biosolids. However, often times most human exposure to these organic chemicals occurs during our every day contact with items in our personal environment. Things such as cooking tools, carpets, furniture, outdoor clothing, among others all contain these chemicals.

The land application of biosolids is strictly regulated and requires adherence to best management practices designed to protect public health and the environment.

These practices include, but are not limited to, controls which begin with pollution prevention to protect the quality of the biosolids, routine monitoring of the biosolids to evaluate compliance with federal and state regulations, responsible management of the materials on site, as well as mandated buffers around dwellings, drinking water sources, and local waters.



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All of the required management practices combined work together to effectively reduce the risk to public health and the environment by minimizing exposure.

Research is on-going to further understand and evaluate the public health risk associated with land application as an exposure pathway



HRSD is participating in multiple studies designed to better characterize this risk. In addition, EPA is actively engaged in a biosolids risk assessment for PFOA and PFOS.



The best way to minimize your exposure to PFAS in your daily life and to help protect the quality of the biosolids and water being treated at your local wastewater facility is to minimize or eliminate the usage of PFAS containing products in your home and prevent residues of these products from going down the drain.