

THE COATINGS INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVE

The Science of PFAS

The Issue

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of more than 14,000 engineered chemicals used in a variety of industrial and consumer products because they provide superior performance characteristics.

Some PFAS chemistries present high risks for human health and the environment; but others do not. Polymers and fluoropolymers – which are the type of **PFAS most commonly used in coatings** – **are very low concern because they are non-toxic, chemically stable, non-bioavailable.**

That's why coatings products that use low-concern PFAS should not be regulated the same as products using high-risk PFAS.

The Impact

Associating paint and coatings products with high-risk PFAS creates an inaccurate perception of safety risks; restricts access to critical raw materials that provide optimal performance; and exposes the industry to increased product liability claims.

Polymers and fluoropolymers are used in very high performing coatings for critical infrastructure:

- Implantable medical devices
- Protection of bridges
- Water delivery and filtration systems
- Energy efficient buildings
- Electric vehicles
- Solar panels
- Aerospace
- Semiconductors critical to national defense

Our Ask

- **Do NOT treat all PFAS the same – they are not**
- **Coatings should not face the same regulatory restrictions as products with high-risk PFAS.**
- **EPA should instead pursue science-based regulation that acknowledges the low concern and low-risk profile of polymers and fluoropolymers**

Unique Attributes of Polymers and Fluoropolymers

- Fluoropolymers are **chemically stable, non-toxic, non-bioavailable, non-water soluble and non-mobile**
- PFAS use in coatings is not associated with contamination
- Fluoropolymers can be manufactured safely without PFAS discharges

Cool roof coatings can reduce building air conditioning by approximately

25%

90%+

reduction in VOC compared to traditional solutions.

50%

lower life cycle emissions vs acrylic chemistry

Source: U.S. Department of Energy + Solar Impulse Foundation

