

ECOLAB STATEMENT ON PFAS

Purpose

PFAS commonly refers to thousands of chemicals that are routinely used in industrial processes and equipment for a variety of purposes, including enhancing industrial equipment durability and helping to protect against hazardous operating conditions. While there is currently no globally uniform regulatory definition of PFAS, Ecolab applies the definitions that are applicable in the jurisdictions in which it operates supplemented by its own product-specific evaluations based on the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) definition.

Historically, certain per- and polyfluorinated substances have been utilized in a wide range of industrial applications because of their unique performance characteristics. However, Ecolab recognizes the increasing regulatory and stakeholder interest in PFAS and supports balanced, science-based regulation of these substances.

Consistent with this approach, Ecolab is committed to providing customers and stakeholders with information regarding the presence and intended use of PFAS in products, consistent with applicable regulations and available product data.

Looking forward, Ecolab will continue to evaluate PFAS, as well as other potentially bio-persistent or bio-accumulating substances, through the regulatory and sustainability review process embedded in its product development and new product introduction processes. This ongoing review helps ensure that Ecolab's products continue to meet customer needs while aligning with evolving regulatory requirements and sustainability objectives.

Actions and Offerings

- By the end of 2026, all chemical products manufactured by Ecolab¹ that contain intentionally added² PFAS will be removed from our global portfolio.
- Ecolab offers technologies that remove PFAS from water.³
- Fluoropolymers may be present in seals, valves and components within select Ecolab equipment or packaging where it is critical for safety and chemical containment.⁴ Ecolab will continue to evaluate technically and commercially viable alternatives to fluoropolymers in these applications as they become available.
- To the extent PFAS is present in third-party products where the use of PFAS is currently unavoidable, like pesticides, Ecolab is requesting suppliers develop PFAS-free alternatives.⁵

Explanation of Key Terms

PFAS | There is no uniform regulatory definition of PFAS. However, PFAS, or Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), are commonly described as a class of thousands of chemicals with unique physicochemical properties that have in common the presence of carbon-fluorine (CF) bonds.

OECD | The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is an intergovernmental organization in which representatives of 38 industrialized countries in North and South America, Europe and the Asia and Pacific region, as well as the European Commission, meet to co-ordinate and harmonize policies, discuss issues of mutual concern, and work together to respond to international problems

OECD - PFAS Definition | PFASs are defined as fluorinated substances that contain at least one fully fluorinated methyl or methylene carbon atom (without any H/Cl/Br/I atom attached to it), i.e. with a few noted exceptions, any chemical with at least a perfluorinated methyl group (–CF₃) or a perfluorinated methylene group (–CF₂–) is a PFAS.

Footnotes and References

- ¹ This statement reflects businesses and product portfolios that have been evaluated under Ecolab's PFAS assessment process. Recently acquired businesses and product portfolios, including certain acquisitions completed within the past two years, may not yet have been fully assessed and therefore may not be fully represented in this statement.
- ² 'Intentionally added PFAS', as commonly defined in existing regulations, means PFAS added to a chemical product formulation to provide a specific characteristic, appearance, quality or to perform a specific function.
- ³ There are multiple sites using Ecolab ion exchange technology to remove PFAS from water to below applicable regulated levels. Ion exchange is recognized by the US EPA as an effective PFAS treatment technology.
- ⁴ Certain regulations refer to the use of PFAS in these types of applications as "currently unavoidable use", meaning that the use of PFAS in a particular application is "essential for health, safety, or the functioning of society and for which alternatives are not reasonably available." Ecolab reports on these applications pursuant to applicable regulations.
- ⁵ In select international markets, Ecolab lacks information regarding the use of PFAS in certain products sourced through third parties. Ecolab's identification and review of these products is ongoing. Ecolab purchases, but does not manufacture, registered pesticides containing PFAS from third parties. PFAS-free alternatives to these pesticides do not currently exist.
- OECD (2021), Reconciling Terminology of the Universe of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances: Recommendations and Practical Guidance, OECD Series on Risk Management, No. 61, OECD Publishing, Paris.
- This statement is premised on currently available information and may be amended subject to the availability of new information, technology, and/or developments.