# Why Should Food Service Workers Care About PFAS?

PFAS are chemicals that have been used in some food packaging to help prevent grease and moisture from soaking through.

## Health Effects Linked to PFAS

Research has linked PFAS exposure to a variety of potential health concerns, including impacts on the immune system, reproductive health, child development, and certain cancers.

## Growing Awareness

PFAS can remain in the body for years and have been linked to potential health effects. As researchers learn more about these chemicals, many businesses are choosing PFAS-free alternatives.

## PFAS and Food Service Workers

PFAS have been used in some food packaging products, meaning food service workers may encounter them as part of their daily work. Understanding how PFAS may affect health can help workers make informed choices both at work and at home.

### Where Are PFAS Found?

- Disposable food containers
- Grease-resistant wrappers
- Coated paper food packaging

### Why It Matters in Food Service

- Handle food packaging daily
- May encounter PFAS on the job
- Serve vulnerable populations

### Why Phase Out PFAS?

- Choose safer alternatives
- Reduce unnecessary exposure
- Support employee well-being

For more information on our PFAS-free foodware program, you can visit our website below
**https://smartenergy.illinois.edu/a-safer-future-embracing-pfas-free-takeout-containers/**

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