# Harmful PFAS and Cancer-Causing Ingredients Detected in Personal Care Products in the U.S.



Several cosmetic and personal hygiene products in the U.S. have been found to contain harmful PFAS, or "forever chemicals," and other cancer-causing ingredients. Consumer watchdogs Mamavation and the Environmental Working Group have tested hundreds of products, discovering high levels of these chemicals across various categories, including foods, sunscreens, cosmetics, body washes, and contact lenses.

PFAS are a group of substances that persist in the environment and human body, linked to numerous health issues such as cancers, asthma, fertility problems, obesity, birth defects, diabetes, and autism. Popular products like Playtex tampons, Always liners, Carefree liners, and Band-Aid bandages were found to contain significant levels of organic fluorine, a marker for PFAS presence.

Contact lenses presented notable risks, with CooperVision's lenses measuring up to 4,700 ppm of organic fluorine and Alcon's colored lenses reaching nearly 21,000 ppm. Oral hygiene products were also implicated, with Oral-B’s Pro-Health Deep Clean Floss revealing more than 70,000 ppm organic fluorine.

Other concerning ingredients include methylisothiazolinone in Olay body wash, causing skin irritation, and homosalate in sunscreens like Banana Boat’s children’s sunscreen, potentially disrupting the endocrine system.

Deodorants and antiperspirants from brands like Degree and Secret contain talc, BHT, and D5, which may pose cancer risks. Additionally, toxic ingredients were found in makeup, such as Covergirl and Maybelline mascaras containing teflon and propylparaben.

With these findings, it is clear that common hygiene and beauty products may expose users to harmful chemicals regularly.