



**IKEA FAQ**

# **HIGHLY FLUORINATED CHEMICALS**

In 2016, IKEA phased out all highly fluorinated chemicals from textiles.

## **What are highly fluorinated chemicals?**

Highly fluorinated chemicals, sometimes referred to as PFCs or PFASs, are a group of chemicals containing carbon-fluorine bonds. Examples of chemicals in this class include PFOA, PFOS and more than 3 000 related compounds. The function of highly fluorinated chemicals is to give the material oil-, stain-, and water-repellent properties. Within the furniture industry these chemicals are mainly used as surface treatment on textiles.

## **What are the health and environmental concerns?**

Highly fluorinated chemicals are bio accumulative and persistent substances, which means that they don't break down but will accumulate in nature.

Some of the highly fluorinated chemicals, such as PFOA, are toxic to reproduction and suspected to be carcinogenic.

## **Are IKEA products treated with highly fluorinated chemicals?**

No. IKEA does not treat any products with highly fluorinated chemicals. IKEA started to phase out highly fluorinated chemicals already in 2009 and since 2016 all highly fluorinated chemicals are banned in IKEA textiles.

