» OUR APPROACH TO PFAS

Shaw Industries stopped using PFOS-based soil and water repellents in 2001 and PFOA-based soil and water repellent chemistries in 2008. We discontinued the use of all PFAS-based soil resistant compounds in our U.S. carpet manufacturing by January 2019 — and in all our carpet manufacturing operations globally by mid-2020.

Our industry-leading, proactive approach to eliminating PFAS from our supply chain and our manufacturing operations has illustrated the rigorous efforts those looking to remove PFAS from their supply chains and manufacturing operations must take. Our approach and learnings are outlined below.

SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP

Shaw designs products and processes with people and the planet in mind. We're proud to be a leader in environmental stewardship and material health.

With a commitment to Cradle to Cradle design principles for more than 25 years, nearly 90 percent of the products Shaw makes are Cradle to Cradle Certified® — having been assessed for:

- material health
- clean air and climate protection
- circularity
- water and soil stewardship
- social fairness

In fact, Shaw has achieved more Cradle to Cradle certifications than any other company in the world — and these principles guide our product development, sourcing policies, and supplier agreements.

This rigorous, globally recognized certification requires independent assessors, including toxicologists, to evaluate the chemical ingredients of a product before deeming them safe for people and the environment. It's one of the many ways we strive to know as much as possible about our products and processes, and it is part of our commitment to continuous improvement as science and technology evolve.

OUR COMMITMENT

This sustainability approach pervades all Shaw does and is demonstrated in our industry-leading, proactive approach to eliminating PFAS from our supply chain and our manufacturing operations.

The journey hasn't been easy. But Shaw is committed to ensuring that our manufacturing processes do not add to the PFAS compounds already present in the environment.

Recognizing that eliminating PFAS from industrial systems is a complex, global challenge that no single company or organization can solve alone, we work collaboratively to learn from others to find and implement solutions and to share the knowledge we've gained through our journey.

» OUR JOURNEY

PFAS BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

PFAS (perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances) are a group of nearly 15,000 chemicals, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Since the 1940s, PFAS have been used in a wide range of industrial applications and are found in hundreds of everyday products, from soap and food containers to cosmetics. As a result, PFAS are ubiquitous in the environment.

Like other carpet manufacturers, Shaw historically used PFAS-based soil and water repellents in our carpet manufacturing.

PFAS TRANSITION

As flooring manufacturing experts, we rely on government agencies and regulators (including the U.S. EPA) to provide science-based guidance on chemical usage and exposure.

Shaw has continuously responded to emerging scientific information to improve its manufacturing practices for the benefit of customers, communities and the natural environment.

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RIGOROUS EFFORTS

After Shaw stopped using PFAS-based soil resistant treatments, extensive work was done to remove legacy chemicals from our operations and to find and remove PFAS that may be hidden in materials we source from others.

Removing Legacy Chemicals

To our surprise, trace amounts of PFAS compounds were still lingering in equipment where we had historically used PFAS-based soil resistant materials — years after we stopped using those products. To remove those legacy chemicals, we disassembled equipment, hired industrial cleaners to ensure PFAS was removed from surfaces in Shaw's facilities, and replaced pipes and repaired infrastructure where needed.

For added measure, we also installed Granular Activated Carbon filtration systems at several facilities to remove trace amounts of PFAS from our wastewater.

Identifying Hidden Sources

As part of our transition away from PFAS-based soil repellents, Shaw contractually required our third-party suppliers to provide raw materials to Shaw that do not contain PFAS. Despite these requirements, we found through our ongoing due diligence that further testing was needed to prevent PFAS from entering our manufacturing processes because suppliers oftentimes did not know that PFAS were in the materials they were selling to Shaw.

» INNOVATION — A GAME CHANGER

Our extensive efforts revealed that drinking water testing wasn't accurate for detecting PFAS in soaps, oils, resins, and other solid materials – really anything other than drinking water. Those materials required additional testing preparation to expose PFAS. Since an adequate methodology to prepare those materials for testing didn't exist, we invented one.

Shaw tests every new material from our suppliers before it comes in our door to see if it contains even trace levels of PFAS. If the products do contain PFAS, we work with our suppliers — often using this new testing preparation methodology — to help them figure out where PFAS are in their materials and supply chains so they can remove them or offer an alternative material.

This testing preparation innovation really stands to be a game changer. It has allowed Shaw to remove hidden PFAS from our operations. It's also helped our suppliers remove PFAS from their materials, which has an impact well beyond Shaw's operations because those suppliers don't just sell materials to Shaw. They sell to others in the carpet industry and to a wide range of manufacturers well beyond the carpet industry.

Additionally, we've made our patent-pending testing preparation methodology publicly available so other companies don't have to start from scratch like we did.

When we all know more, we can do more.