



KNOW YOUR WORST FRIENDS FOREVER

WORST because they are toxic, **FRIENDS** because you have no choice but to put up with them, and **FOREVER** because they will stay with you for many many years.

How were they introduced into your life?

- **Sticky** was used in a wide variety of products, including construction, furniture, vehicles, textiles, cookware, packaging, and cosmetics due to its special chemical characteristics like waterproofing, heat insulation, etc.
- Usage of **Pestie** in agriculture and public health pest control ended up with environmental and food chain contamination.
- Toxic chemicals like **Sparky**, can also be unintentionally produced or released through chemical reactions or incomplete combustion.



STICKY

Industrial POPs, present in many products in your home such as pans, curtains, carpets, etc.



PESTIE

POPs pesticides, one of the oldest and most famous POPs due to their widespread use in pest control.



SPARKY

Unintentional POPs, created as by-products of industrial processes and from incomplete combustion.

We must take it seriously because:

- **They are toxic:** POPs can cause cancer, damage the nervous system, disrupt the immune system, and lead to reproductive disorders, among many others.
- **They spread around:** POPs travel for long distances across the globe:
 - Sticky's relative, PCB, was found in the deepest ocean trench, in Polar regions, and in high mountains.
 - Pestie was found in sea birds in the Arctic, and in marine mammals in the Poles.
- **They accumulate and magnify through the food chain:** Fish, predatory birds, mammals, and humans that are high up in the food chain accumulate the greatest concentrations.
- **They are persistent:** POPs do not degrade for decades and even centuries.
- **And their family is growing:** The Stockholm Convention listed 12 POPs in 2004, and now has 34, with 3 more under review.