

# RESULTS FOR EACH RETAILER



## ***2 of 14 products tested positive for high fluorine content***

Ahold Delhaize offered one item in the bakery or deli category that tested positive for high fluorine content: a laminated gold plate under a cake. Sandwich wrapping paper (in the form of a bag) tested as having low fluorine content, indicating possible PFAS contamination from recycled content, processing, or another source. Ahold Delhaize offers a few types of store-brand packaged plates, and one of the three varieties tested was likely treated with PFAS: Nature’s Promise Luncheon Plates, which are a molded fiber material made with bamboo. The Nature’s Promise brand is a private-label line advertised as “Free from added dyes and chlorine whitening,” as well as tree-free.

Ahold Delhaize stores were among the few that did not provide any paper or cardboard take-out containers. The retailer sells a large selection of baking supplies and has limited options for cook-at-home food on paper trays. Our testing found the supplies and paper trays were non-fluorinated and therefore free of PFAS.



## ***1 of 17 products tested positive for high fluorine content***

Albertsons stores collectively sold or provided to customers a wide array of items across different categories—brown paper take-out containers, store-brand packaged plates, bakery items like sandwich wrappers and cake plates, cook-at-home food with paper trays, and baking supplies. Out of all of these items, only one tested positive for high fluorine content: a gold-laminated cake board.



## ***2 of 18 products tested positive for high fluorine content***

Kroger companies offer a wide selection of bakery and deli papers. Of these, a paper bakery bag had high fluorine content and therefore likely PFAS treatment, while store-logo brown sandwich paper had low fluorine content. The stores visited offered only one type of paper take-out container—a clamshell—that also tested positive for high fluorine content.

Kroger stores had a diverse array of baking supplies, and a limited supply of food serviceware and cook-at-home food with paper trays. None of these items had likely PFAS treatment in our testing.



## ***0 of 12 products tested positive for high fluorine content***

Trader Joe's stores have a few unique characteristics that influenced the selection of items available for testing. There are no take-out containers or bakery bags because the deli and bakery areas of the store do not sell unpackaged food. However, one of the packaged baked goods was wrapped in white baking paper, and another was sold in a heavy-duty parchment carton. We tested the parchment and found it had low fluorine content. The stores do not have a wide selection of packaged cooking or baking supplies. The butter wrappers of two kinds of butter were both found to be non-fluorinated.

Trader Joe's is well known for its private-label products, including many frozen foods in cardboard bowls. None of the packaging for cook-at-home foods that we analyzed tested positive for fluorine. This retailer also has a sample counter at its stores, and one store provided a store-logo sample plate that had low fluorine levels.



### ***5 of 17 products tested positive for high fluorine content***

Whole Foods stores place considerable emphasis on prepared foods available for take-out, and the retailer has largely chosen paper-based products as take-out containers (whereas some other chains offer plastic). These kinds of packages included a brown paperboard take-out box, a molded-fiber tub, a molded-fiber clamshell, and a molded-fiber plate. Four of the five take-out containers analyzed tested positive for high levels of fluorine, and one had low levels of fluorine. The manufacturer of the coating for one type of Whole Foods' take-out container, the brown paperboard take-out box, has now removed the fluorinated ingredient, as discussed in the next section.

Whole Foods fared better on bakery and deli items, the other category with items more often found to be likely treated with PFAS in this study. One of eight items, a sandwich wrapper, tested positive. A brown bakery sheet had low fluorine content. Bakery bags, a cake plate, and other items were free of PFAS treatment. Although the retailer does not appear to sell store-brand packaged plates, it does carry paper baking supplies and cook-at-home food on paper trays. The trays and baking supplies tested PFAS-free.