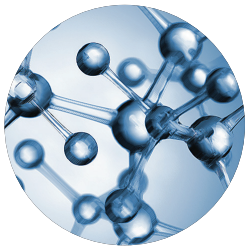
WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT **PFAS**

What are PFAS?

PFAS – formally known as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances – are a large family of man-made chemicals that have been widely used since the 1940s, most commonly in non-stick cookware and food packaging, stain and water repellents, and firefighting foams.



Why are they a concern?

PFAS are known as "forever chemicals" because they resist degradation, and so they accumulate in the environment – and in your body – over time.

Potential health effects of exposure include:

- Increased risk of testicular, prostate and kidney cancers
- Decreased fertility and other reproductive effects
- Developmental effects in children
- Abnormal hormone levels
- Elevated cholesterol
- Weakened immune system

How can you or your family be exposed?

People can be exposed to PFAS in a variety of ways, including normal use of household products, or eating food or drinking water contaminated with PFAS.

Does your drinking water contain PFAS?

The only sure way to know is to have your drinking water tested at a certified laboratory. This is most important if you live near a fire training site, landfill, military base or industrial site, or if you have heard reports of local contamination. You can find certified labs on EPA's website or by contacting the agency responsible for drinking water regulation in your state.

If you're on a **public water supply**, check with your municipality to see what they are doing to mitigate PFAS. Some municipalities test for PFAS even though current regulations do not require it.

If you're on a **private well**, you are responsible for any testing or treatment.

PFAS are currently unregulated federally, although a proposed U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regulation could be finalized by late 2023. Meanwhile, some states have enacted their own regulations.

If PFAS are found in your water, what can you do?

Activated carbon filtration, reverse osmosis (RO), and anion exchange water treatment technologies can reduce PFAS in your home's drinking water. Look for products certified to standards **NSF/ANSI 53** or **NSF/ANSI 58** for PFAS reduction.

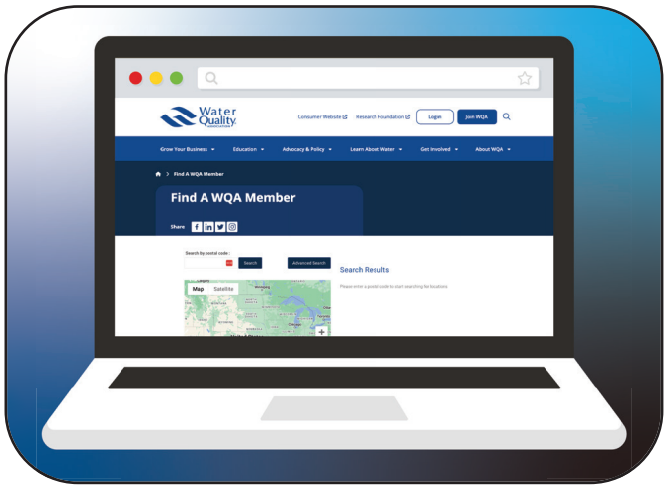
The effectiveness of each technology depends on how much and the type of PFAS found in your water and other factors, including what else is in your water that you might choose to treat. You'll also need to determine if you want to treat your water at the Point of Use – such as a kitchen faucet or refrigerator water dispenser – or treat the entire water supply where the water enters your house. In most cases, a POU device will be sufficient to treat PFAS.

What does it mean when a product is "certified"?

Product certification is a multi-step process for evaluating products against industry standards. Third-party certification offers peace of mind that the product has passed rigorous performance and quality assurance tests and will perform as advertised.

How do you find a water treatment professional you can trust?

Water treatment professionals who are members of WQA have agreed to abide by a strict code of ethics that upholds the highest principles of honesty, integrity, fair dealing, and professionalism. To find a WQA member and WQA-certified professionals in your area, use the search on WQA's website.



Water Quality Association

This material is provided by the Water Quality Association, the recognized resource and advocate for the betterment of water quality. WQA represents more than 2,500 member companies around the world in the residential, commercial, and industrial water treatment industry. For more information, visit the website: wqa.org.