



What are PFAS?

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances

- Developed in the 1940s
- Group of thousands of human-made chemicals with many useful properties including the ability to repel water, prevent staining, and increase heat resistance.
- PFAS have many industrial and consumer uses including fabric, carpet, electrical wire and non-stick coatings, food packaging, and firefighting foam used to extinguish petroleum fires.
- PFAS are persistent and can remain in the environment for long periods of time.
- PFAS are toxic and exposure to elevated levels of some PFAS may increase the risk of developing a variety of health effects (see DPH PFAS information page for additional details).

Resources

CT DPH's PFAS Information Webpage:
<https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Environmental-Health/PFAS/PFAS>

Public Water Supply: Please contact your local water utility to learn more about your drinking water and to see whether they have monitoring data for PFAS or can provide any specific recommendations for your community.

Local Health Department: To find contact information for your local health department, please visit: www.ct.gov/dph and click on "Find your Local Health Department."

CT DPH - Emerging Contaminants Unit: Phone: 860-509-7356
 Email: DPH.EmergingContaminants@ct.gov

CT DPH- Private Well Program
 Phone: 860-509-8401
 Email: dph.privatewellprogram@ct.gov

CT DPH - Environmental & Occupational Health Assessment Program: Phone: (860) 509-7740
 Email: DPH.EOHA@ct.gov

CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection PFAS Information:
 Email: DEEP.PFAS@ct.gov

US Environmental Protection Agency:
<https://www.epa.gov/pfas>

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

Basic Information about drinking water



Connecticut Department of Public Health
 Environmental Health & Drinking Water Branch
 Emerging Contaminants Unit
 410 Capitol Avenue MS#12DWS
 Hartford, CT 06134



PFAS Name	CT Drinking Water Action Level (ppt)
6:2 chloropolyfluoroether sulfonic acid (6:2 Cl-PFESA; F-53B major)	2
8:2 chloropolyfluoroether sulfonic acid (8:2 Cl-PFESA; F-53B minor)	5
Hexafluoropropylene oxide-dimer acid (HFPO-DA; GenX)	19
Perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBS)	760
Perfluorobutanoic acid (PFBA)	1,800
Perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS)	49
Perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA)	240
Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS)	10
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)	16
Perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA)	12

ppt = parts per trillion

Connecticut Drinking Water Action Level

- An Action Level is the concentration of a contaminant that when exceeded protective measures are advised.
- As of June 2023, DPH has established Action Levels for 10 PFAS (*table above*).
- Individual levels reflect evolving scientific research on their toxicity.

Is My Water Safe to Drink?

- These PFAS Action Levels represent the best studied and most commonly found PFAS chemicals in CT.
- An Action Level provides protection to all the public including sensitive populations such as babies or pregnant women. Multiple safety factors are used in the calculation of Action Levels.
- PFAS Action Levels consider a lifetime of exposure and consider additional sources of exposure besides drinking water.
- Consuming water above CT's Drinking Water Action Levels over a long period of time may increase the risk of developing some health effects for some people. It does not necessarily mean that you WILL develop health effects.
- DPH expects public water systems that detect PFAS to inform their customers and evaluate actions to reduce exposures.
- Wherever feasible, steps should be taken to reduce exposure to PFAS from all potential sources (e.g., drinking water, food, consumer products). Lower exposure means lower risk, and the less exposure the better.

PFAS Treatment for drinking water

- Activated carbon, ion exchange and high-pressure membranes (e.g., reverse osmosis) have all been demonstrated to remove PFAS from drinking water.
- Treatment targeted for one PFAS chemical will often also reduce the concentration of multiple other PFAS chemicals in the water.
- PFAS treatment is scalable from a point of use system on a kitchen sink to a system that treats all the water use in a home to a public water treatment system.
- Home treatment options are certified by the National Sanitation Foundation to treat PFOS and PFOA to below 70 ppt. Currently, no certification exists for removal of target PFAS to below laboratory detection limits.
- The best available treatment option depends on many factors, including water chemistry, PFAS compound concentration and water usage.
- Carbon filters installed in CT homes have demonstrated successful removal of target PFAS to below Action Levels.
- Please visit the DPH PFAS webpage for additional information on PFAS removal.