

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) about PFAS

What are PFAS?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of over 9,000 man-made chemicals that have been used in various industrial and consumer products for their resistance to heat, water, oil, and grease. They are commonly found in products such as non-stick cookware, textiles, and firefighting foams.

Do water utilities add PFAS to water?

No, water utilities do not add PFAS to the water.

How do PFAS get into drinking water?

PFAS does not break down naturally in the environment. PFAS are in many commonly used products, any time these products are thrown away or washed, PFAS can enter the environment. It can then travel through the environment in the air, water, or soil and enter drinking water supplies.

Are PFAS harmful to health?

With so many chemicals in the PFAS family, research is still needed to understand the health effects. However, some PFAS have been linked to various health issues, including liver damage, thyroid disease, decreased fertility, high cholesterol, and cancer.

What is being done to regulate PFAS in drinking water?

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has established legally enforceable levels for six PFAS of the most concern in drinking water. Water systems are required to monitor for these PFAS and take action to reduce levels if they exceed the limits.

How can I find out if my drinking water contains PFAS?

Your community water system is required to test for PFAS and report the results to the public. You can contact your water provider for more information.

What can I do if PFAS are found in my drinking water?

If PFAS levels in your drinking water exceed the regulatory limits, your water provider will take steps to meet the regulatory limit.

Can I use a home water filter to remove PFAS?

Certain home water filters, such as those using activated carbon or reverse osmosis, can reduce PFAS levels in drinking water. Be sure to use a filter certified to remove PFAS and follow the manufacturer's instructions.

Where can I get more information about PFAS?

For more information about PFAS, you can visit the EPA's website or contact your local water utility.