



PFOA

(Perfluorooctanoic acid)

If the combined level of PFOA, PFOS, FOSA, NEtFOSE and NEtFOSAA in your drinking water is over 20 ng/L, you should find a different source of water.

What is PFOA?

PFOA is a chemical in a group of contaminants called per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

- ▶ PFOA can be found in stain repellants in carpet and fabric, food and other packaging, and fire-fighting foam.
- ▶ People can be exposed to PFOA by drinking water, eating food, and breathing in or accidentally swallowing soil or dust containing PFAS.

Can PFOA affect our health?

Studies have shown that PFOA can affect the health of people and research animals.

- ▶ Studies among people have shown that high levels of PFOA are associated with increased cholesterol levels, pregnancy-induced hypertension, thyroid disease, decreased antibody response to vaccines, and decreased fertility in women.
- ▶ Studies in research animals have found that high levels of PFOA can affect the immune system, development, and liver.

What can you do to protect your health?

Wisconsin recommends a groundwater standard of 20 ng/L for PFOA, PFOS, FOSA, NEtFOSE, NEtFOSA, and NEtFOSAA combined. Find a different source of drinking water if the level of these PFAS in your water is over 20 ng/L. Sources of water can include:

- ▶ Water from a public water system or private well that has been tested for PFAS and has levels below Wisconsin's recommended groundwater standards.
- ▶ Bottled water that has been tested for PFAS and has levels below the recommended groundwater standards.

ng/L = nanograms per liter equivalent to parts per trillion (ppt)



Looking for more information?

- ▶ See the [Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry website](#) for more information on PFAS health effects.
- ▶ Visit the [DHS website](#) to learn more about Wisconsin's recommended groundwater standards.

