



# FOSA (Perfluorooctane sulfonamide)

## What is FOSA?

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

- ▶ FOSA is one of several PFAS that can turn into perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) in the body and environment.
- ▶ FOSA can be found in stain repellants in carpet and fabric, food and other packaging, and fire-fighting foam.

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

## Can FOSA affect our health?

FOSA can turn into PFOS in the body and PFOS can cause a number of health effects.

- ▶ There is little information on how FOSA may affect health, but many studies have shown that PFOS can cause health effects.
- ▶ Studies among people and research animals have shown that high levels of PFOS may affect reproduction, development, cholesterol levels, liver and thyroid function, and immune response.



## What can you do to protect your health?

Wisconsin recommends a groundwater standard of 20 ng/L for FOSA, NEtFOSE, NEtFOSA, NEtFOSAA, PFOS, and PFOA combined. Because FOSA and similar PFAS can turn into PFOS, one number is used for all of them to protect health.

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 the health effects.
- ▶ Visit the [DHS website](#) to learn more about Wisconsin's recommended groundwater standards.

