



Protect yourself and your family from PFAS in drinking water.

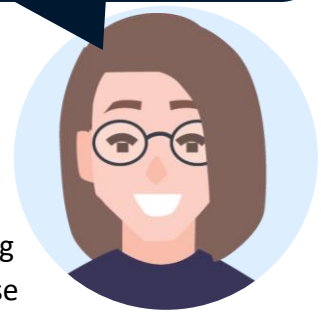
Studies have shown that exposure to high levels of some PFAS can impact health.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of chemicals that have been used in many products since the 1950s. Studies have shown that high levels of some PFAS can impact health such as increase cholesterol levels, reduce antibody response to some vaccines, and decrease fertility in women. Drinking water is one of the major ways that people can be exposed to PFAS.

DHS develops groundwater standards to protect people from substances that can be found in this important drinking water source.

We do this by following procedures specified in state law. Since 2019, we have [recommended standards](#) for 18 PFAS. If the level of one or more PFAS is above the recommended standard, the water may pose a health risk and water users should take steps to reduce their PFAS exposure.

We use several methods to protect people from PFAS in drinking water.



DHS uses a hazard index approach to evaluate the risk from mixtures of PFAS.

This approach accounts for the potential for multiple PFAS to cause similar health effects when present in water together. The [hazard index](#) is calculated by comparing the levels of each PFAS to its recommended groundwater standard and adding these ratios together. If the hazard index is equal to or greater than one, the water may pose a health risk and water users should take steps to reduce their PFAS exposure.

The online tool can help you evaluate the health risk from PFAS in your drinking water.

If you have tested your water for PFAS, you can use the online tool to interpret your results.

This [online tool](#) compares the PFAS levels in a drinking water sample to the recommended groundwater standards, calculates the hazard index, and provides advice to follow based on the results. The tool is quick and easy to use: Enter results → Press *Evaluate* → Follow the provided advice.



If PFAS levels are high, you should find an alternative source of water.

You can use water from a public water system or private well that has low levels of PFAS, bottled water that has low levels of PFAS, or water from a certified treatment device. Use this alternative source for drinking, preparing foods that take up a lot of water (like rice, Jell-O, and oatmeal), and watering fruit and vegetable gardens.

Take action if PFAS levels in your drinking water are high.



Learn more about how DHS protects people from PFAS and steps you can take to reduce your exposure at dhs.wisconsin.gov/chemical/pfas.htm

