

PFAS in Private Well Water



Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a large group of human-made chemicals.

PFAS have been used in many products since the 1950s. Studies have shown that exposure to some PFAS can impact health – effects include increased cholesterol levels, reduced antibody response to some vaccines, and decreased fertility in women. PFAS can get in drinking water from past use, spills, and improper disposal.

Consider testing for PFAS if you live near an area of known PFAS contamination.



Check the [PFAS Interactive Data Viewer](#) to see if PFAS has been found near you.*



Test using a [Wisconsin certified lab](#).*

Evaluate your PFAS results.



Use the [PFAS assessment tool](#) to determine if the PFAS in your drinking water may pose a health risk.*

Take action if PFAS levels are high.



Use a different source of water for drinking, making baby formula, and making foods that take up a lot of water (like oatmeal, rice, and jello).

Options for different water include:



Bottled water



Water from a well without issues



Water from a public system



The water can still be used for bathing, brushing teeth, and washing dishes.



Find a long-term solution. This may be drilling a new well or installing a treatment device.*

★ = Additional information is available in the *Resource Guide* (next page).



★ Resource Guide ★



If you live near a **site of PFAS contamination** and are considering testing your private well, contact the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to learn about available resources. You can reach them at DNRPFASInquiries@Wisconsin.gov



When testing, you should use a **lab** certified by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). You can find a list of certified labs at dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/PFAS/Labs.html.



The **PFAS assessment tool** compares the PFAS levels in a drinking water sample to the DHS' available health and provides advice to follow based on the results. The tool is available at www.seagrant.wisc.edu/our-work/focus-areas/emerging-contaminants/evaluating-the-risk-from-pfas-in-your-drinking-water/dhs-tool/



The DNR provides **grants** to address water quality issues in private wells. Learn about eligibility and covered expenses at dnr.wisconsin.gov/aid/WellCompensation.html.



Our *Reducing PFAS in Your Drinking Water* brochure has detailed information on **certified treatment devices** for PFAS: www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/collection/p-03012.



You should also test for arsenic, bacteria, and nitrate regularly.

You can find information on these and other substances to consider testing at: www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/water/private.html.



You can find all this information and more at <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/chemical/pfas.htm>.

Questions? Concerns?
Contact us at
DHSEnvHealth@wi.gov
or 608-266-1120.