



PFAS IN DRINKING WATER

What You Need to Know

DOES YOUR DRINKING WATER CONTAIN PFAS?

- Find out if your drinking water has been tested for PFAS by contacting your local water utility or your health department.
- If you have a private well, consider having your water tested. Contact your state health department for help finding a testing service in your area. If you live in an area with known contamination, your state may subsidize water testing costs.
- Advocate for more testing of public drinking water supplies for PFAS.



FILTERING YOUR DRINKING WATER

- Reverse osmosis (RO) is the most effective at removing a wide range of PFAS chemicals and is preferred for those who use private wells where additional contaminants (such as iron, arsenic or nitrate) may be present. It is also the more expensive option and produces a significant amount of waste water. Therefore RO systems are best used at the point-of-use, for example your kitchen sink.
- Granular activated carbon (GAC) or solid carbon block filters are a relatively low-cost option for removing PFAS. They are effective at removing long-chain PFAS (PFOA and PFOS, the two most commonly found), but work less well at capturing the shorter-chain compounds.
- When choosing a filtering system, look for one that is NSF P473 certified, or meets the NSF/ANSI 53 standard for activated carbon filters and the NSF/ANSI 58 standard for reverse osmosis.
- Change the filter regularly to prevent chemicals trapped by the filter from leaching back into your water. Water with higher levels of contamination will require more frequent filter changes.



IS BOTTLED WATER SAFER?

- Be aware that some bottled water may also contain PFAS chemicals. Many bottling companies get their water from municipal water supplies, which are often not required to test or treat for PFAS chemicals. Other companies get their water from natural sources that might be affected by contamination.
- Contact your state environment or health department to find out if there's been any government testing of bottled water products sold in your state.

