

# 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](mailto: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](https://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/](http://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](https://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](https://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](https://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](mailto:DHSEnvHealth@wi.gov)  
or 608-266-1120.