

# Protect Your Health: Get the Facts on **PFAS:**

## What are PFAS?

Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl substances, better known as PFAS (pronounced p-fahs), are man-made chemicals that repel oil and water. Used since the 1940s for common uses such as nonstick cookware, fire retardants, flame- and water-resistant clothing, food wrappers, plumber's tape, stain prevention products, and even coatings on wires. Scientific studies link PFAS to health impacts such as cancer, thyroid disease, weakened immunity, and other health problems.

PFAS compounds are popping up in many locations, which is why more testing is needed. However, there are certain places that are far more likely, such as near airports, military bases, and current or past industrial areas.

## How are we exposed to PFAS?

There are three main ways people are exposed to PFAS: 1) food—chemicals used in food packaging gets in the food we eat; 2) air—chemicals applied to furniture and clothing get into the dust and air we breathe; and 3) water—chemicals used in fire-fighting or by industries gets into the water we drink.

## What is the safe amount of PFAS in water?

Currently, there is no enforceable federal drinking water standard for PFAS issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA has issued a health advisory for protecting human health over a lifetime exposure to PFAS at 70 ppt, however, this is an advisory and not enforceable. Another federal agency, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, recently released a report finding safe levels of PFAS chemicals to be up to 10-times lower than the EPA's levels for human health.

## Frequently Asked Questions About the PFAS Water Test

### Is the lab certified?

No. The University of Michigan Biological Station's lab is not certified. There are very few labs currently certified for PFAS testing in the country.

### Can I use the results for a legal claim?

No. However, you can be connected to a certified lab to verify your results if you wish to make a legal claim.

### Can I be connected to a private lab?

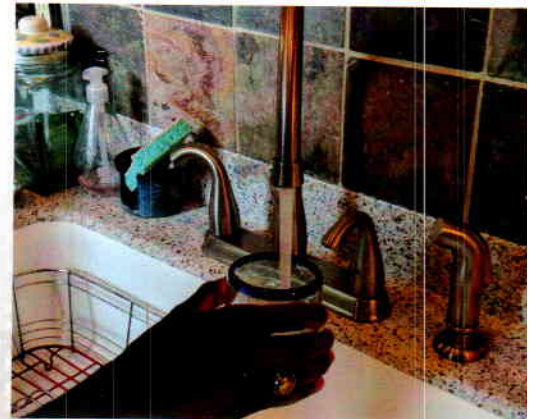
We can provide information on other labs that are doing testing for PFAS in drinking water.

### When will I get my test results?

Your test results will be sent to you, approximately three weeks after received.

### What can I do if my water has PFAS?

If PFAS are detected in your water sample, we will provide recommended next steps with your results.



For more information on PFAS and links to the reports referenced visit  
Freshwater Future's website, <https://freshwaterfuture.org/ourissues/drinking-water/pfas/>

  
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