

New Jersey Safe Drinking Water Act

Because PFAS may present adverse health effects, New Jersey, under the Safe Drinking Water Act, adopted rule amendments as of June 1, 2020, to establish new Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for two compounds in the PFAS family: 14 parts per trillion (ppt) for Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) and 13 parts per trillion (ppt) for Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid (PFOS). The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection initially used 40 ppt for PFOA for a health advisory starting in 2007.

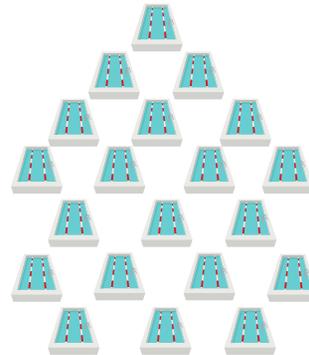
Learn More

Information and regulations relating to PFAS continue to evolve. Visit the following webpages to stay up to date on current practices:

- <https://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/pfas/>
- https://www.nj.gov/health/ceohs/documents/pfas_drinking%20water.pdf
- <https://info.nsf.org>

Understanding parts per trillion (ppt):

One part per trillion is the equivalent of one drop of water in 20 Olympic-sized swimming pools.



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PFAS in Drinking Water

Protecting Consumers from Emerging Contaminants



PFAS • PFOS • PFOA

Poly- and Perfluoroalkyl Substances

PFAS are a broad group of man-made chemicals that are environmentally persistent which are used in industrial applications and commercial household products. New Jersey has promulgated some of the most stringent standards in the nation for these substances.

How are We Exposed to PFAS?

Although PFOA and PFOS are no longer manufactured in the United States, PFAS are used in the production of many products. Well known for their thermal and water resistance, PFAS do not break down over time, resulting in build up in the environment. Ingestion of food or water containing PFAS is the exposure route of primary concern.

Are PFAS Harmful?

People who drink water containing PFOA in excess of the MCL over time could experience problems with their blood serum cholesterol levels, liver, kidney, immune system, or, in males, the reproductive system. Drinking water containing PFOA in excess of the MCL over time may also increase the risk of testicular and kidney cancer. For females, drinking water containing PFOA in excess of the MCL over time may cause developmental delays in a fetus and/or an infant. Some of these developmental effects may persist through childhood.

How is MWC Addressing PFAS?

MWC is taking the following actions:

- MWC has been monitoring levels of PFOA compounds for a number of years. We have been reporting on PFOA detection in our Annual Consumer Confidence Report since 2008.
- In anticipation of New Jersey regulatory standards being enacted, we began evaluating treatment options in 2019.
- Design of a new treatment plant which, will mitigate additional compounds, including PFOA, was completed and is under construction. The new treatment plant is expected to be in service in mid-2023.
- Litigation has been initiated in U.S. District Court against the alleged polluter responsible for the presence of PFAS in groundwater with intent to recover the capital costs of PFAS remediation.



Presence in Drinking Water Supplies

Drinking water systems are not producers or users of PFAS, instead, they are potential receivers of these chemicals used by manufacturers and consumers and are responsible for managing traces of PFAS from sources such as industrial discharges, landfills and runoff from source waters such as lakes, rivers and groundwater.

What Should I do?

If you have specific health concerns, a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at higher risk than other individuals and should seek advice from your health care providers about drinking water that exceeds state standards for PFOA.

Home water treatment devices are available that can reduce levels of PFOA. For more specific information regarding the effectiveness of home water filters for reducing PFOA, visit the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) International website, <http://www.nsf.org/>.

For more information, see <https://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/pfas/>