

PFAS

AND YOUR WATER SYSTEM



Homeowner Checklist

PFAS, or per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, is a category of man-made chemicals that have been widely used to make products stain-resistant, waterproof, and/or nonstick. While research on the possible health effects of exposure to PFAS throughout groundwater is ongoing, studies have determined the compounds are linked to hepatic toxicity, reproductive and developmental toxicity, suppression of the immune system, and some types of cancer.

The EPA suggests those customers served by a public water system should contact their local water supplier and ask for information on PFAS in their drinking water, and should also request a copy of their Consumer Confidence Report. This report lists the levels of contaminants that have been detected in the water, including those by EPA, and whether the system meets state and EPA drinking water standards.

According to MLive.com, there are just 18 labs across the country that are U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-approved to test for PFAS. (View the list of labs here: https://www.accesskent.com/Health/PFAS/pdf/EPA_Approved_PFAS_Labs.pdf.) And while prices vary, it seems you can expect to pay anywhere from \$500-\$800 per water test.

If you are concerned about the possibility of PFAS in your drinking water and are served by a private well, both NGWA and EPA recommend testing your drinking water as well as reaching out to your local health department for information.

NGWA also recommends:

- ✓ Installing a whole-home filtration system approved to reduce PFAS in groundwater
- ✓ Routine maintenance on your well to protect your water system
- ✓ Contacting your public health department to speak to local officials and experts regarding PFAS contamination and testing options. NGWA has created an easy-to-use list of local health department contacts at www.ngwa.org/Professional-Resources/state-info.

As always, you can find detailed information on testing your water, maintaining your well, and treating your system at www.wellowner.org.

For more detailed information on PFAS, NGWA members can order a copy of *Groundwater and PFAS: State of Knowledge and Practice*, our 8-part guidance document exploring the known science and knowledge related to the compounds in groundwater and soil, for \$50. Nonmembers can order the document for \$150.