

PFAS

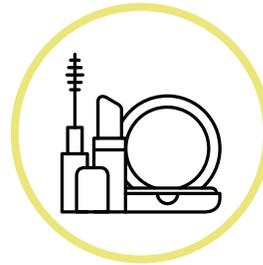
Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances

PFAS are a group of man-made chemicals used in industry and consumer products due to their resistance to heat, water, and stains.

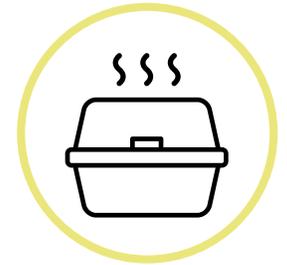
These chemicals, often called forever chemicals, are often found in airfields where firefighting chemicals are used, firefighting training areas, certain manufacturing facilities, and some waste disposal sites.

Because PFAS are used in many products and found in many locations, the chemicals often end up in drinking water, both city water and private wells.

Common Sources of PFAS



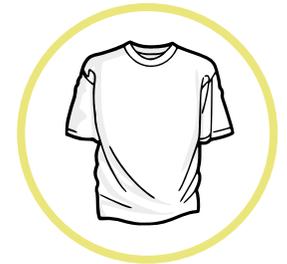
Personal Care Products



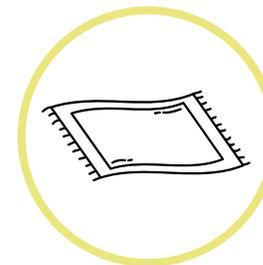
Food Packaging Materials



Firefighting Foam



Water Resistant Clothing



Stain resistant Carpets

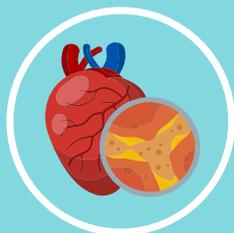


Nonstick Cookware

Possible Health Effects



Increased risk of kidney and testicular cancer



Increased cholesterol



Reduced immune response



Reduced chances of getting pregnant



Effect on growth and development in children

How Can I Test My Well Water for PFAS?

Check with your local Board of Health about requirements for testing your private well. Plan to test your well at least once a year.

If your well is located within two miles of a known source of PFAS, or of other water supplies where PFAS has been detected, you may want to sample your well.

Contact laboratories that have been certified by MassDEP to test for PFAS in drinking water.

<https://tinyurl.com/pfas-in-well-water>

It's important to follow directions carefully and not contaminate the sample. Follow the directions in the guide linked below or the directions provided by the laboratory doing the analysis.

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/field-sampling-guide-for-pfas>

What should I do if there is PFAS in my well water?

Avoid using the water for:

- Drinking
- Preparing Formula
- Brushing Teeth
- Washing Fruits and Vegetables
- Cooking

Continue to use the water for:

- Bathing
- Watering Your Lawn
- Washing Dishes
- Doing Laundry

For more information:

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas-in-private-well-drinking-water-supplies-faq>