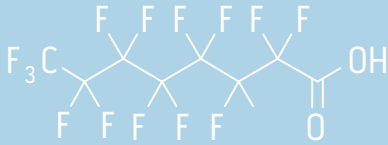




FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT PFAS



WHAT ARE PFAS?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are manufactured chemicals used to make many household products including nonstick cookware (e.g., Teflon™), stain repellants (e.g., Scotchgard™), and waterproofing (e.g., GORE-TEX™). They are also used in industrial applications such as in firefighting foams and electronics production. There are thousands of PFAS chemicals, and many persist in the environment.

Additional information on PFAS from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) can be found at epa.gov/pfas.

WHAT CAN I DO TO REDUCE MY OVERALL EXPOSURE TO PFAS?

PFAS can be found in many consumer products to find more information visit ***Meaningful and Achievable Steps You Can Take to Reduce Your Risk | US EPA***

WHAT IS THE UNREGULATED CONTAMINANT MONITORING RULE (UCMR)?

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requires that once every five years EPA issue a list of unregulated contaminants to be monitored by public water systems. EPA uses the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) to collect data for contaminants that are suspected to be present in drinking water and do not have health-based standards set under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Through the UCMR program, water systems collect data on a group of contaminants that are currently not regulated in drinking water at the federal level. U.S. EPA uses this information when deciding if it needs to create new drinking water limits. More information on the UCMR program can be found at epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule.

ARE PFAS CHEMICALS IN PHOENIX DRINKING WATER?

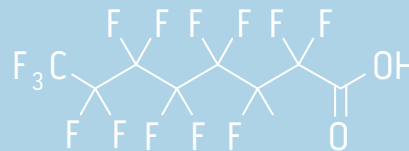
During UCMR 3, 2013 – 2015, the City of Phoenix sampled for six specific PFAS substances there were no detections of these substances during that monitoring program.

In UCMR 5 (2023-2025), the City of Phoenix began sampling our drinking water for 29 PFAS chemicals. The EPA intends to post the occurrence data for UCMR in mid-2023 and quarterly thereafter.

WHAT IS THE CITY OF PHOENIX DOING TO REDUCE PFAS IN DRINKING WATER?

The City of Phoenix is participating in the U.S. EPA Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule program, or UCMR 5. By participating in UCMR 5, the City is checking for 29 PFAS in our drinking water. Once the monitoring is complete, the City will evaluate the results and determine if any additional treatment methods are necessary to reduce any PFAS in our drinking water.

Continued... **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT PFAS**



DOES THE EPA REGULATE PFAS UNDER THE SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT?

In March 2023, EPA proposed a National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) to establish legally enforceable levels, called Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs), for six PFAS in drinking water; PFOA and PFOS as individual contaminants and PFHxS, PFNA, PFBS, and HFPO-DA (commonly referred to as GenX Chemicals) as a mixture. Additional information can also be found on the EPA's website at [epa.gov/pfas](https://www.epa.gov/pfas).

WHAT CAN I DO TO REDUCE MY OVERALL EXPOSURE TO PFAS?

A good first step is to increase your understanding of what PFAS substances are and how they are used. Ongoing education on PFAS and staying informed on federal and state guidance can help manage personal exposure. Materials that help explain this are available in the One Water toolkit at [waterrf.org/research/projects/pfas-one-water-risk-communication-messaging-water-sector-professionals](https://www.waterrf.org/research/projects/pfas-one-water-risk-communication-messaging-water-sector-professionals).

Although many consumer products contain some PFAS, make efforts to purchase products with less or no PFAS. There is information available to help consumers identify alternatives or PFAS free products. Buying PFAS-free options will help decrease the amount of new PFAS entering the environment. A list of product types that may have PFAS, can be found at [atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/health-effects/exposure.html](https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/health-effects/exposure.html).

HOW CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT PFAS IN DRINKING WATER?

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) has also posted information at [azdeq.gov/node/7524](https://www.azdeq.gov/node/7524).

PFAS health effect information can also be found on the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website at [atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/health-effects/index.html](https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/health-effects/index.html).

