

PFAS in Drinking Water

Tap into the facts about PFAS to learn if you should consider testing your drinking water to protect your health.

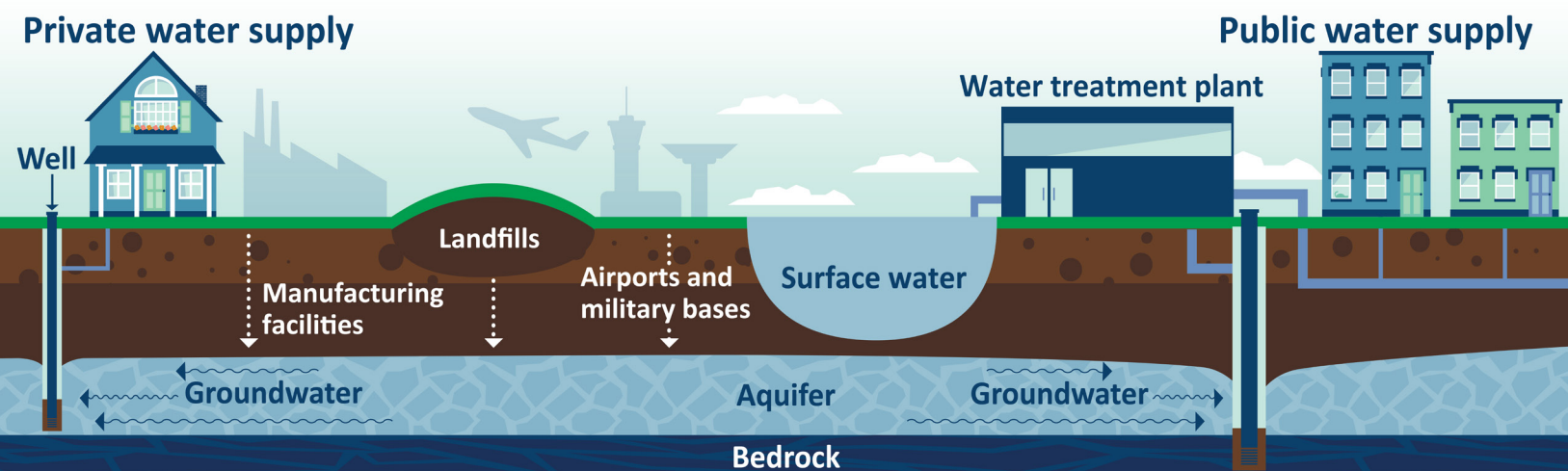
How PFAS get into drinking water

- PFAS are a large group of human-made chemicals that do not occur naturally in our environment. PFAS are used in many products such as stain repellents, fast food wrappers, waterproofing sprays and many consumer products.
- PFAS can get into drinking water sources when products containing PFAS are used or spilled onto the ground.
- Common sources of PFAS include:

Landfills. PFAS are used in many different consumer products that can eventually end up in landfills. PFAS in unlined landfills can seep from the soil into drinking water sources.

Manufacturing facilities. PFAS are used in manufacturing and can be released into lakes and rivers during production or as wastewater. PFAS may be in industrial waste that can seep into soil and drinking water sources.

Airports and military bases. PFAS are used in some firefighting foam. Drinking water sources contaminated with PFAS near airports and military bases are often associated with the use of firefighting foam.



Problems with PFAS in drinking water

Many PFAS don't break down easily and can stay in the environment for a long time. If we swallow those PFAS, they stay in our bodies for a long time and may lead to potential health effects. Scientists are still learning about the health problems associated with PFAS exposure. Some studies in people have shown that certain PFAS are linked to:

- Liver damage.
- Higher cholesterol, especially total cholesterol and LDL cholesterol.
- Small decreases in infant birth weight.
- Developing certain types of cancer, in particular kidney and testicular cancers.
- High blood pressure or pre-eclampsia in pregnant people.
- Thyroid disease.
- Decreased immune system response to vaccines in children.
- Reduced fertility.



How to find out if PFAS are in your drinking water



Step 1: Know where your water comes from.

- Learn about the different water supply types to determine where your water comes from at Michigan.gov/CareforMiDrinkingWater.
- Consider how close you live to a potential PFAS source. Potential sources of PFAS are listed on the first page of this document and known PFAS sites in Michigan. You can visit bit.ly/MiPFASsites to learn if you live near one.

Step 2: Contact your local health department or a certified drinking water lab to test your drinking water.

- If you are on a **public water supply**, the water coming into your home may already be regularly tested for certain contaminants. Those on public water supply should check for results with their local water supply.
- If you have a **private residential well**, water testing is your responsibility. If you live near a potential or known PFAS source, call MDHHS at 800-648-6942 to see if your home is in an area that is under investigation. We may be able to test your water for free.
- If we cannot test your water for free, contact a **certified drinking water lab**. They can help you get sample bottles and provide instructions on how to sample your water yourself. Visit bit.ly/PFASLabTesting for a list of labs that offer PFAS testing. It is important to follow the instructions provided for accurate results. To learn more about testing your home's water for PFAS, visit bit.ly/HomeSamplingGuidance.

Step 3: Understand a test result for PFAS in drinking water.

- You can call MDHHS to review your water test results with a staff member. They can help you understand any potential risks and advise on next steps based on your results.

Things you can do to reduce PFAS in drinking water

Consider a water filter. Some water filters are certified to reduce certain PFAS in your water, such as:

- **NSF/ANSI 53** for total PFAS reduction like those made with granular activated carbon (GAC).
- **NSF/ANSI 58** for total PFAS reduction for reverse osmosis systems.

These certifications mean the filter has been tested using a standardized process, and it can reduce specific PFAS in drinking water. It is important to follow all manufacturer instructions to make sure the filter is reducing PFAS as expected. Also, there are no filters that are certified to reduce all types of PFAS.

If you live in an area that is under investigation for PFAS contamination, you may qualify for a free water filter. Call MDHHS at 800-648-6942 to learn more.

Connect to a community public water supply. If you have a private residential well, check to see if a public water supply is nearby. You may be able to connect your home.



For More Information

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services 800-648-6942

Michigan.gov/CareforMiDrinkingWater
Michigan.gov/PFAS

Michigan PFAS Response Team (MPART)
Michigan.gov/PFASResponse

MDHHS-Pub -2163 (4-26)

Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy

Michigan.gov/DrinkingWater
Michigan.gov/WaterWellConstruction

Laboratory Services
Michigan.gov/EGLElab

List of Michigan Local Health Departments
bit.ly/MiHealthDepartment

