

# Facts About PFAS

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## What Are PFAS?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a large family of human-made chemicals. They have been used since the 1950s to make a wide variety of stain-resistant, water-resistant, and non-stick consumer products. Some examples include food packaging, outdoor clothing, non-stick pans, and certain types of firefighting foams utilized by the U.S. military, local fire departments, and airports.

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## PFAS Drinking Water Standards

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**1.** Washington State law requires all public water systems to test for PFAS. If water systems find PFAS in their water, follow-up testing is performed to confirm the detection. They must notify their customers, at minimum, in the annual water quality report.

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**2.** In 2021, the Washington State Board of Health (WADOH) adopted State Action Levels (SALs) for five PFAS. These five contaminants were:

- Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA),
- Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS),
- Perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA),
- Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS), and
- Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS).

Contaminants above the SALs require treatment. These SALs may change with the EPA final rule.

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**3.** In April 2024, the EPA made a final rule setting drinking water standards for six PFAS. This included the five listed above and Hexafluoropropylene dimer acid (HFPO-DA) and its ammonium salt.

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## City of Tumwater PFAS Sampling

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The City sampled its water system in April 2022. Of the six PFAS chemicals, five were not detected. PFBS was detected at the Palermo Wellfield and required resampling. Resampling confirmed its presence. However, both samples were substantially below the State and Federal action levels.

**PFBS was 100 times less than the State action level and 1000 times less than the EPA federal hazard index.**

No additional actions or treatments are currently required. Resampling will occur in 2025.

## EPA and WADOH PFAS Drinking Water Standards

Type of PFAS	Health Effect	2024 EPA MCLG (ppt*)	2024 EPA MCL (ppt*)	2021 WA SALs (ppt*)
PFOA	Cancer	0	4.0	10
PFOS	Cancer	0	4.0	15
PFHxS	Thyroid Effects	10		65
PFNA	Developmental Effects	10		9
HFPO-DA and its ammonium salt	Liver Effects	10		-
PFBS, PFHxS, PFNA, and HFPO-DA and their salts	Multiple	Hazard Index of 1		345

MCLG-Maximum Contaminant Level Goal  
MCL-Maximum Contaminant Level

\*ppt = parts per trillion

## City of Tumwater PFAS Sampling Results

Type of PFAS	Concentration Range (ppt)
PFOA	Not Detected
PFOS	Not Detected
PFHxS	Not Detected
PFNA	Not Detected
HFPO-DA and its ammonium salt	Not Detected
PFBS	Not Detected - 5.56 ppt Hazard Index = 0 to 0.003

### Learn more about PFAS

To learn more about the health concerns and exposures to PFAS, visit WADOH's PFAS website at <https://doh.wa.gov/community-and-environment/contaminants/pfas>.



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