

# Learn about PFAS

Protecting public health and providing our customers with a safe water supply is the City of Washougal’s top priority, and we currently meet all federal and state requirements for water quality testing. On average we deliver 566 million gallons per year of clean and safe drinking water to more than 18,000 people in our system composed of 83 miles of water mains and service lines.

Washougal, like many communities in Washington and across the nation, is addressing an emerging issue with per-and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) substances. In 2024, the city began a new program of testing and reporting for PFAS in drinking water. We will continue to share information about PFAS so that you can make informed decisions.

On April 10, 2024, the EPA announced the final National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) for six PFAS. The new limit from the EPA for levels of PFAS in drinking water is set at 4 parts per trillion.\* **For perspective, 1 part per trillion translates to 1 second in approximately 32,000 years or a single drop of water in 20 Olympic-sized swimming pools.**

*\*The recommended limits are based on long-term exposure to PFAS throughout a person’s life and represent a conservative level at which no adverse impacts are expected over a lifetime of drinking the water, even in health-sensitive populations.*



### Potential Health Impacts

There are many different PFAS, and we are still learning about their health impacts in people.

#### PFOA

Some people who drink water containing PFOA more than the State Action Level over many years may experience problems with:

- Cholesterol
- Liver
- Thyroid
- Immune system
- High blood pressure during pregnancy
- Have children with lower birth weights
- Higher risk of getting certain types of cancers

#### PFOS

Some people who drink water containing PFOS more than the State Action Level over many years may experience problems with:

- Cholesterol
- Liver
- Thyroid
- Kidney
- Immune systems
- Have children with lower birth weights

### PFAS Overview

Since the 1940s, PFAS has been used around the world in industry and in consumer products such as:



WATER RESISTANT CLOTHING



NON-STICK COOKWARE



FAST FOOD PACKAGING



PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS



PAINT



FIREFIGHTING FOAMS



STAIN RESISTANT PRODUCT



MICROWAVE POPCORN BAGS

These synthetic chemicals can enter the environment and water supplies from multiple sources and do not break down easily, which is why PFAS are sometimes called “**forever chemicals**”.

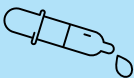


### Keeping You Informed

The city is committed to keeping the community informed. We will continue to share actions the City is taking to keep your water safe and provide updates as we learn more about treatment options and receive updates from federal and state authorities.

**Timely information and PFAS sampling results will be posted at [cityofwashougal.us/PFAS](https://cityofwashougal.us/PFAS).**

## City Actions to Protect Water Quality



### 1. TESTING THE WATER SUPPLY

Operations staff continue to test and monitor water quality in compliance with state and federal requirements to ensure a safe water supply.



### 2. EVALUATING TREATMENT OPTIONS

Water quality engineers are evaluating treatment technologies to remove PFAS from the water supply.



### 3. FINDING LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS

Expert scientists are investigating potential sources of PFAS and the extent of PFAS in the local groundwater supply.



### 4. PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Future costs for PFAS treatment are included in the City’s long-range capital plans.