

# Lakewood Water District and PFAS: What You Need to Know



Lakewood Water District has detected PFAS in groundwater at certain locations in the District’s water supply system. PFAS are a group of human-made chemicals that have the potential to adversely affect human health and the environment. The source of the PFAS in the groundwater is firefighting foam that was used at JBLM for decades.

## WE ARE TAKING ACTION NOW TO:



### Protect Your Health

Your water continues to be safe to drink. The water delivered to customers’ taps meets all state and federal drinking water regulations to protect public health.



### Reduce Cost

The District is seeking every avenue of funding to help pay for water quality protection projects necessary to respond to PFAS.



### Ensure a Reliable Water Future

Future reliable water supply options are being evaluated by a team of engineers. The most cost- effective measures will be pursued.



### Find Long-Term Solutions

District leadership is working closely with the State of Washington and others on new rules for water treatment and the long-term cleanup of PFAS sites.

### Learn more:

[www.LakewoodWater.Org](http://www.LakewoodWater.Org) • (253) 588-4423

# PFAS: Frequently Asked Questions

## Is Lakewood Water District's water safe to drink?

Your water continues to be safe to drink. The water delivered to customers' taps meets all state and federal drinking water regulations to protect public health.

## What are PFAS?

PFAS are a group of human-made chemicals that have the potential to adversely affect human health and the environment. PFAS have been manufactured and used in the US and around the world since the 1950s, in food packaging, non-stick cookware, and firefighting foam.

## What regulations exist for PFAS?

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has a health advisory level for PFAS that offers a margin of protection for all people throughout their life from adverse health effects resulting from exposure to PFAS in drinking water.

The Washington Department of Health is in the process of developing State Action Levels for PFAS compounds. The new State Action Levels are likely to be in-place in 2021.

## How does PFAS affect my health?

PFAS chemical build up over time and can cause cancer and other illnesses when they reach higher concentrations in the body. Concentrations of PFAS in drinking water are very low but can contribute to levels found in people's bodies from commercial sources.

## What can you do about PFAS?

PFAS can be removed with home filters that use granular activated carbon (GAC), the same type of treatment the District has installed in the water system. Examples are filters by PUR© or Brita© – look for “activated carbon” in the product description.

## We also encourage you to stay informed!

We continue to update our website with information on new regulatory guidance and other PFAS related information:

**[www.LakewoodWater.Org](http://www.LakewoodWater.Org)**

Washington State Department of Health has an informative PFAS website:  
**[www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Contaminants/PFAS](http://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Contaminants/PFAS)**

The Environmental Protection Agency also has PFAS information:  
**[www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-and-pfos](http://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-and-pfos)**