



Update on PFAS MCL Levels

This morning, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published its final rule on establishing Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for PFAS in drinking water. The final rule has been years in the making and establishes enforceable limits that are significantly lower than past EPA guidelines. This significant change will continue to be in the news and is certain to raise some concerns and questions. Lakewood Water District continues our dedication to being transparent and committed to providing safe drinking water to our community.

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. PFAS are believed to be present in more than 90 percent of people.

What regulations exist for PFAS?

The EPA finalized MCLs for six different PFAS chemicals on April 10, 2024. These levels for PFAS offer a margin of protection for all people throughout their lives from adverse health effects resulting from exposure to PFAS in drinking water. The Washington State Department of Health established State Action Levels (SALs) for PFAS compounds that have been in place since 2022.

How does PFAS affect my health?

PFAS chemicals build up over time and have been associated with possibly causing 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 are the levels in Lakewood Water District's drinking water?

The guidelines and regulations for PFAS vary between states, but the District has and will continue to work with the State Department of Health to meet all drinking water quality standards. To that end, the District has installed treatment systems to remove PFAS at four wells and has taken four additional wells out of service where they exceed the SALs.

Lakewood Water District samples many of our groundwater wells on a monthly basis for PFAS; all of our wells are sampled for PFAS at least annually. Our most current monitoring results for PFOA, PFOS, GenX, and PFBS show the following averages for wells not currently treated for PFAS removal:

PFAS Compound	Lakewood Water Monitoring Averages	EPA MCL	Washington State SAL
PFOA	Non-detectable in 19 of 24 wells in service; Range of 2 to 7 parts per trillion in other 5 wells	4 parts per trillion	10 parts per trillion
PFOS	Non-detectable in 19 of 24 wells in service; Range of 4 to 13 parts per trillion in other 5 wells	4 parts per trillion	15 parts per trillion
PFNA*	Non-detectable in 24 wells in service	10 parts per trillion*	9 parts per trillion
PFHxS*	Non-detectable in 19 of 24 wells in service; Range of 5 to 11 parts per trillion in other 5 wells	10 parts per trillion*	65 parts per trillion
HFPO-DA (GenX)*	Non-detectable in 24 wells in service	10 parts per trillion*	N/A
PFBS*, PFNA, PFHxS, GenX	Non-detectable in 19 of 24 wells, PFBS ranges between 2 and 9 parts per trillion in other 5 wells. Other levels listed elsewhere in table.	PFBS at 2,000 parts per trillion*	PFBS at 345 parts per trillion

* EPA's new MCL uses a Health Index Calculation which combines multiple compounds as well as the Compound individually.

What is Lakewood Water District doing about PFAS?

We have been testing our wells and actively taking steps to educate our customers and to reduce PFAS in drinking water since 2016, specifically:

- Continuing to determine the levels of PFAS in our water with additional monitoring and identifying any patterns.
- Actively working with the community to provide regular updates and education on what PFAS is, potential health effects, and regulations.
- Installed treatment facilities to remove PFAS at four wells.
- Taken four wells out of service due to PFAS levels.
- Drilled new wells to increase capacity and replace wells impacted by PFAS.
- Expanded capacity at existing wells where PFAS has not been detected.
- Secured grant funding to help offset some of costs associated with PFAS treatment.
- Planning for additional PFAS mitigation at additional District wells.
- Working with industry experts to better understand established and emerging treatment options.
- Developing practical and feasible strategies to reduce levels of PFAS as EPA develops and finalizes its future drinking water standards.

The lower the level, the lower the risk. As always, public health and the quality of your drinking water are our top priorities.

Please reach out with questions or concerns. You can also find out more information about this topic on our website - <https://www.lakewoodwater.org/lwd/page/pfas-topics>. Additional information can be found on the State Department of Health's website - <https://doh.wa.gov/community-and-environment/contaminants/pfas>

What can you do about PFAS?

PFAS can be reduced with home filters that use granular activated carbon (GAC), the same type of treatment the District has installed in the water system.

The State Department of Health and EPA have developed informational flyers regarding in-home filters. You can find that information by clicking the links here:

EPA Fact Sheet regarding home filters - [FACT SHEET \(epa.gov\)](#)

Washington State home filter information - [331-699.pdf \(wa.gov\)](#)

We also encourage you to stay informed!