

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS- PFAS in Private Wells

PRIVATE WELL INFORMATION

Q: I have a well, should I test the water for PFAS? How can I test my well for PFAS?

A: If your well is located near a suspected or probable source of PFAS, (refer to [DEEP's webpage-
https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Remediation--Site-Clean-Up/Contaminants-of-Emerging-Concern/Introduction-to-PFAS](https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Remediation--Site-Clean-Up/Contaminants-of-Emerging-Concern/Introduction-to-PFAS) for information about PFAS sources) you might consider testing. PFAS testing is currently not broadly recommended for all private well users, because of the complexity of proper sample collection, cost, and the limited number of labs approved for testing for PFAS. If you'd like to consider testing, the list of labs certified to test for PFAS in drinking water can be found on the [CT DPH's Environmental Laboratory Certification Program's website-
https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Environmental-Health/Environmental-Laboratory-Certification/Environmental-Laboratory-Certification](https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Environmental-Health/Environmental-Laboratory-Certification/Environmental-Laboratory-Certification).

CT DPH encourages private well owners to test their drinking water for general potability and other common naturally occurring and human-made contaminants. For general private well recommendations on what to test for, why and how often, refer to the CT DPH's website: [TestYourWell.ct.gov](https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Environmental-Health/Environmental-Laboratory-Certification/Environmental-Laboratory-Certification). If your well water has contamination that exceeds any concentration on [CT's Action Level List](#), CT DPH recommends that you take actions to reduce your exposure to your contaminated well water. The best way to do this is to use an alternate source of water for drinking and cooking (such as bottled water) or by installing treatment to lower the contaminant levels in the water you drink.

Because of the concern about PFAS exposure and developmental effects, it is especially important that water contaminated with PFAS at concentrations greater than the Action Levels not be used to prepare infant formula and that people who are pregnant or lactating and children should use an alternative source of water for drinking and cooking.

Q: Does the State test private wells for PFAS?

A: CT DEEP Remediation Division's Potable Water Program can assist with testing private drinking water supply wells for PFAS in certain circumstances. Because there are presently limited financial resources to support private well sampling for PFAS, DEEP has focused its efforts on testing private wells located near drinking water supply wells that have been tested and have confirmed detections of PFAS above a CT DPH Drinking Water Action Level or in areas where soil and/or groundwater is contaminated with PFAS in close proximity to private wells, and where a responsible party is unknown or unable to sample. (Contamination may be identified through independent testing performed by a public water system, a home owner, a remediation contractor or other entity.) When an area of PFAS contamination that threatens private wells is reported to DEEP and a responsible party has not been identified, an 'iterative' approach is used to evaluate the presence of PFAS in surrounding private drinking water wells. If initial sampling near the source of contamination, detects the presence of PFAS in private wells above a CT DPH Drinking Water Action Level, the sampling area is expanded to test additional wells in the area. This process continues until the extent of private wells impacted is understood. This is a process that is consistently followed for all human-made contaminants, not only for PFAS.



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Q: What happens if there are PFAS in my well?

A: If you tested on your own and PFAS are detected, please notify DEEP at DEEP.PFAS@ct.gov and DPH at DPH.EmergingContaminants@ct.gov for additional guidance.

If your well is being tested through a targeted investigation being conducted by DEEP and PFAS are detected in your well water above a CT DPH Drinking Water Action Level for PFAS, then DEEP will arrange to have bottled water delivered to you on an interim basis and will evaluate and provide for installation of an appropriate treatment system, as funding permits. The type of treatment system will be dependent on case specifics but will most likely consist of a granular activated carbon system. Arrangements to have your water treatment system routinely maintained and serviced by a licensed water treatment professional for the duration of this investigation will also be made.

Q: Does the home water treatment system that I have work to remove PFAS? What types of treatment address PFAS in drinking water?

A: Viable treatment options for PFAS reduction include granular activated carbon (GAC), anion exchange treatment, and point of use reverse osmosis (RO). Treatment effectiveness is dependent on treatment sizing, contact time, and how well the device is maintained. For specific devices, it may be best to check with the manufacturer of your treatment device.

To find products certified by the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) to reduce PFOA and PFOS, please refer to: [NSF Protocol P473 Drinking Water Treatment – PFOA & PFOS](#). There are currently no treatment devices certified to reduce PFAS other than PFOA and PFOS. For more information, please refer to the [DPH Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl \(PFAS\) Detections in Private Well Water](#) guidance and visit the Environmental Protection Agency website: [Reducing PFAS in Drinking Water with Treatment Technologies](#).

Please reach out to Housatonic Valley Health District with any questions: (203) 264-9616 or abethge@hvhdct.gov