

# 5 FACTS ABOUT PFOA & PFOS

## 1 WHAT ARE PFOA AND PFOS?

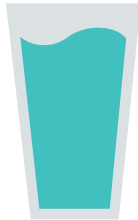


Perfluorooctanoate (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonate (PFOS) are fluorinated organic chemicals that are part of a larger group of man-made chemicals referred to as per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). They have been used extensively in consumer products such as carpets, clothing, fabrics for furniture, paper packaging for food, fire-fighting foams, and other materials designed to be water proof, stain-resistant or non-stick.

Although PFOA and PFOS are no longer manufactured in the United States, other countries still make products that contain these chemicals, which may be imported into the United States.

## 3 IS THERE PFOA OR PFOS IN MY DRINKING WATER?

To date, more than 600 drinking water supply wells in California have been tested for PFOA and PFOS. For those systems that exceeded the 70 parts-per-trillion (ppt) interim PFOA or PFOS Response Level, they have either resolved the exceedance through treatment or removed the water source from service.



Local water agencies are working hard to monitor the quality of their drinking water supply utilizing proven technologies and best practices.

For more information, contact your local water agency directly or review their state-mandated annual water quality report.

## 2 HOW DO PFOA AND PFOS GET INTO THE DRINKING WATER?

These chemicals can get into drinking water when products containing them are used or spilled onto the ground or into lakes and rivers. The chemicals move easily through the ground, getting into ground water that may be used for water supplies or for private drinking water wells. Local water agencies that have detected PFAS in their water supply are researching the source and working to better understand the impacts.



## 4 WHAT IS CALIFORNIA DOING ABOUT PFOA AND PFOS?

The Division of Drinking Water has established interim Drinking Water Notification Levels for PFOA and PFOS at 14 ppt and 13 ppt, respectively. Results above the Notification Level require agencies to notify the governing body for the areas where the water has been served within 30 days of receiving verified test results. If the Response Level is exceeded in drinking water provided to consumers, DDW recommends that the water agency remove the water source from service or provide treatment. The DDW is expected to announce new Drinking Water Notification and Response levels by the end of the year.

**Notification Level**  
PFOA 14 ppt  
PFOS 13 ppt

## 5 WHAT IS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DOING ABOUT PFOA AND PFOS?

In 2016, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a Lifetime Health Advisory (LTHA) recommending that the concentration of PFOA and PFOS in drinking water, either individually or combined, should not be greater than 70 ppt.



### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

**State Water Board:** [www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking\\_water/certlic/drinkingwater/PFOA\\_PFOS](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/PFOA_PFOS)

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency:** [www.epa.gov/pfas](http://www.epa.gov/pfas)

