

On June 30, 2025, Delaware legislators passed Senate Bill 72 (SB 72), a regulation aimed at promoting public awareness of PFAS in drinking water systems. Effective January 15, 2026, the regulation mandates three actions to empower Delaware residents to advocate for safe water:

The Division of Public Health (DPH) must report the levels of PFAS found in public drinking water systems and make this information available online.

If levels of PFAS exceed certain limits, known as maximum contaminant levels (MCLs), the Division must notify the affected public water systems.

Upon notification from DPH, public water systems must notify customers of any exceedances.

We're committed to delivering water that's safe and in full compliance with SB 72 and federal regulations. We work to ensure not only that we regularly test for PFAS, but that we're transparent with our results.

PFAS: A DANGEROUS AND WIDESPREAD CONTAMINANT

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), are a class of synthetic chemicals used in a wide range of products, including firefighting foam, waterproof clothing, non-stick cookware, and cosmetics. They are extremely difficult to break down and destroy.

PFAS are now widespread in the environment as well as industrial and commercial sites, wildlife, and even human bodies. Approximately 97% of Americans have detectable levels in their blood. Significantly, drinking water is a major source of PFAS exposure.

HEALTH EFFECTS

PFAS has been linked to a variety of health issues, including:

Hormone suppression

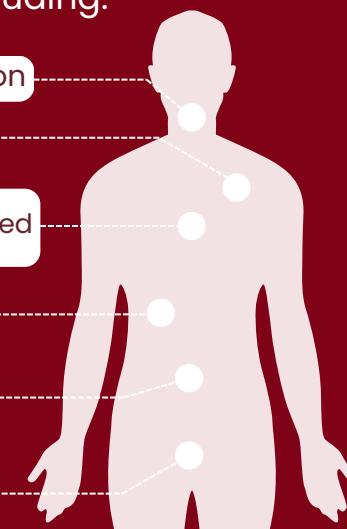
High cholesterol

Reduced vaccine effectiveness; weakened immune system

Liver damage

Lower birth rate and infertility

Kidney and testicular cancer



Because PFAS break down very slowly, they accumulate in organs and tissues of the body, causing damage. And because there are so many of them (over 15,000), researchers are continually learning more about their harmful effects.

MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVELS (MCLs)

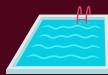
A maximum contaminant level (MCL) is the highest amount of a substance legally allowed in public drinking water and to be presumed safe for long-term consumption.

Under current federal and Delaware state guidelines, MCLs have been established for the following PFAS as well as mixtures of these compounds with an additional substance, PFBS, that tend to cluster together:

Compound	MCL
PFOA	4 ppt*
PFOS	4 ppt
PFHxS	10 ppt
PFNA	10 ppt
HPFO-DA (Gen X)	10 ppt
Mixtures with at least 2 PFHxS, PFNA, HPFO-DA & PFBS	Hazard Index of 1 (unitless)

*ppt = parts per trillion.

PUTTING MCLs INTO PERSPECTIVE



4 parts per trillion (ppt) is equivalent to one drop of water in five Olympic-sized swimming pools.



10 parts per trillion (10 ppt) is equivalent to one grain of sugar in 10 million gallons of water.



The Hazard Index (HI) measures trace exposure to PFAS that add up over time, with an HI of 1 indicating a dangerous level.

SB 72: PROMOTING TRANSPARENCY AND EARLY ACTION

Federal guidelines require public water systems to begin testing and monitoring of PFAS by April of 2027 and MCL compliance by 2029. However, SB 72 encourages water providers to take action far sooner.

As our customer, it's important for you to stay informed about our water quality. Here are a few ways you can access information:

- The Drinking Water Watch tool water testing results:
<https://drinkingwater.dhss.delaware.gov>
- ODW's website for any PFAS-related tools:
<https://dhss.delaware.gov/dph/hsp/odw/>
- Be on the lookout for any public notices that we send as your drinking water provider.

HOME TREATMENT

As a public water system, we're required to deliver water that meets state and federal safety standards for PFAS. However, some customers occasionally inquire about home treatment options.

Activated carbon, reverse osmosis systems and ion exchange units have been proven to reduce PFAS levels. If you're looking for a home water filter, purchase one that uses one of these technologies. Ideally, make sure that it's been certified by a reputable standards organization.



BE PROACTIVE AGAINST PFAS

Stay informed. Educate yourself about PFAS and its effects. Be vigilant about your drinking water quality.

And stay safe.

If you have any questions, contact the Office of Drinking Water at 302-741-8630.



SENATE BILL 72:

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES AGAINST PFAS



Delaware Department of
Health and Social Services
Office of Drinking Water (ODW)