



APPLETREE



New Hampshire-Specific Guidance on Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

This New Hampshire-specific information sheet is intended to help you understand and interpret the results of any testing for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in your well water. It also provides additional informational resources on PFAS, private well ownership and ways to reduce your exposure to PFAS.

As of July 23, 2020, four PFAS compounds have health-based limits known as Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL) or Ambient Groundwater Quality Standards (AGQS) in New Hampshire. The New Hampshire MCLs/AGQS are the state's regulatory guidance in the absence of enforceable standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Other types of PFAS may be included in your test results but are not regulated by New Hampshire or the USEPA at this time.

Per-and Polyfluoroalkyl Substance	NH Drinking Water Standard* in nanograms per liter (ng/L)
PFOA	12
PFOS	15
PFHxS	18
PFNA	11

*Drinking Water Standard implies the New Hampshire Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL) or Ambient Groundwater Quality Standards (AGQS), which are types of drinking water or groundwater regulations. These standards are set to be protective of sensitive populations including infants, children, and women who are or may become pregnant.

Interpreting Your PFAS Sampling Results

Below New Hampshire Drinking Water Standards (MCL/AGQS):

If your PFAS sampling result numbers are all below New Hampshire's MCL/AGQS, **you do not need to take any action at this time**. If other chemicals or PFAS are present in your results, but below current standards or do not have standards to compare against, you can contact us to learn more.

Above New Hampshire Drinking Water Standards (MCL/AGQS):

If any of your PFAS sampling result numbers are above New Hampshire's MCL/AGQS, **NHDES recommends that you do not use your water for drinking, cooking, or other food and beverage purposes unless it's filtered with a treatment system designed to remove PFAS**. The treatment system must also be maintained and monitored at the appropriate frequency according to the manufacturer's specifications. This guidance is consistent with the most current scientific information about these contaminants and is intended to protect the most sensitive people in the population.

If you have any difficulty interpreting the water testing results provided to you, please contact us using the information below.

Additional Information and Resources

Water Treatment Options

To reduce exposure to PFAS in your drinking water, you can use bottled water or install a water treatment and mitigation system. To learn more about drinking water quality, testing and treatment and interpreting your water quality test results, visit the NHDES websites below:

- [Information Specific to PFAS & Private Wells.](#)
- [General Information About Private Well Safety.](#)
- [Information About Choosing Appropriate Private Well Treatment.](#)

Well users that have been impacted by PFAS above the drinking water standard may apply to the PFAS Rebate Program for Private Wells, which will provide a one-time rebate up to \$5,000 for the installation of PFAS treatment or up to \$10,000 for a service connection to a public water system.

- [Information About PFAS Removal Rebates.](#)

Health Concerns

NHDES works with the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the CDC's Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to evaluate and reduce exposures to harmful substances in New Hampshire. This cooperative agreement is intended to support communities like yours and evaluate risks from exposure to PFAS and other harmful substances. Specific information about PFAS exposure can be found at the following links:

- [NHDES PFAS Health Impacts webpage.](#)
- [NH DHHS PFAS FAQs.](#)
- [ATSDR PFAS Information.](#)

We also recommend talking to your health care provider about your specific health concerns. The Northern New England Poison Center (NNEPC) is also available as a resource to help answer health-related questions, if needed. The NNEPC can be reached at 1-800-562-8236.

Please contact us if you have additional questions about PFAS exposure or how NHDES reviews well water sampling results:

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Areas of Expertise: PFAS, Chemical Exposure Questions, Drinking Water Contamination, Risk Assessment

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Areas of Expertise: CDC Coordination, Community Concerns, ATSDR Study, ATSDR Coordination