

On September 17, 2024, Tony Waterworks collected water samples of the Tony Waterworks drinking water and tested them for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS are a group of human-made chemicals that have been used since the 1950s. PFAS compounds in Tony Waterworks drinking water are below all Wisconsin Department of Health Services' (DHS) individual recommended health advisory levels but are present at levels above Wisconsin Department of Health Services' (DHS) hazard index guidance. The hazard index is a way of assessing the potential health impacts associated with mixtures of PFAS. The sampling results are available here: <https://apps.dnr.wi.gov/dwsportalpub/DS/View/9013147>.

**DHS recommends that people limit their intake of PFAS compounds. People can reduce exposure to PFAS by limiting their consumption of Tony Waterworks drinking water.**

**People can consider alternative water sources such as:**

- Other sources of water that have been tested for PFAS and do not have levels above recommended standards.
- Filtered water from a pitcher, sink, or whole-house filter system with a certified filter technology. A granular activated carbon (GAC) filter that meets ANSI/NSF Standard 53 or a reverse osmosis (RO) filter with an included GAC component can filter out PFAS. These numbers will be printed on the filter and/or packaging. More information about filtering out PFAS from drinking water is available here: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p03012.pdf>
- **Boiling water does not remove PFAS.**

## **Potential Health Risks of PFAS**

Long term exposure to high levels of the PFAS may increase cholesterol levels, reduce antibody levels, and reduce a woman's fertility.

PFAS are frequently found together. While some PFAS can affect health in a similar way, they are not equally harmful. For this reason, DHS uses a hazard index approach to assess the potential for health impacts from mixtures of PFAS. When the hazard index is too high, DHS recommends people take action to reduce their risk of health effects. [DHS's webpage on PFAS](https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/chemical/pfas.htm) (<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/chemical/pfas.htm>) has more information about the hazard index, including a video describing what it is and how it is used to protect public health.

## **What is being done to correct the problem?**

Tony Waterworks has taken actions proactively to protect the health of its customers with continued monitoring and frequent sample testing.

## **How are people exposed to PFAS and why are they harmful?**

The main way that people are exposed to PFAS is by drinking water or eating food containing them. PFAS chemicals do not easily absorb into the skin so contact with water that contains PFAS poses a very low health risk.

A large number of studies have examined possible relationships between levels of PFAS in blood and harmful health effects in people. However, most of these studies analyzed only a small number of chemicals, and not all PFAS have the same health effects. This research suggests that high levels of certain PFAS may increase cholesterol levels, decrease how well the body responds to vaccines, and reduce fertility in women. Some other studies have

indicated that high levels of certain PFAS may increase the risk of thyroid disease, increase the risk of serious conditions like high blood pressure or pre-eclampsia in pregnant women, and lower infant birth weights.

## What are per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a large group of human-made chemicals that are resistant to heat, water, and oil. These chemicals have been used for decades in many industrial applications and consumer products such as carpeting, waterproof clothing, upholstery, food paper wrappings, personal care products, fire-fighting foams, and metal plating. PFAS have been found at low levels both in the environment and in blood samples of the general U.S. population.

## How does PFAS get into drinking water?

PFAS can get into drinking water when products containing them are used or spilled onto the ground or into lakes and rivers as well as from manufacturing and disposal. PFAS move easily through the ground, getting into groundwater that is used for some water supplies or for private drinking water wells. When spilled into lakes or rivers used as sources of drinking water, they can get into drinking water supplies. PFAS in the air can also end up in rivers and lakes used for drinking water.

**GENERAL PFAS QUESTIONS --- PLEASE SEE THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES WEBSITE:** <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Contaminants/PFAS.html>

## HEALTH RELATED QUESTIONS---DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health at [dhsenvhealth@wi.gov](mailto:dhsenvhealth@wi.gov) or 608-266-1120. More information about PFAS and health risk can be found on the Wisconsin DHS website at <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/chemical/pfas.htm>.

## OPERATION OF TONY WATERWORKS --- ]

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I certify that the information and statements contained in this public notice are true and correct and have been provided to consumers in accordance with the delivery, content, format, and deadline requirements in Subchapter VII of ch. NR 809, Wis. Adm. Code.

**X LISA TAYLOR**

**OCTOBER 8, 2024**

Signature

Date

**\*\* Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.**

