

PFAS IN DRINKING WATER

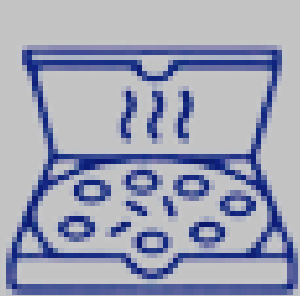
PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES

What are they?

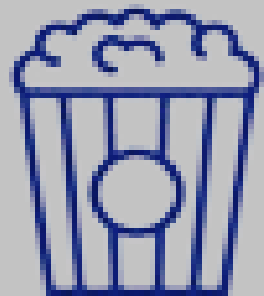
A family of chemicals called per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) that are used for nonstick, stain-resistant and water-proof coatings, in numerous consumer products, industrial applications and firefighting foams.

Where are they found?

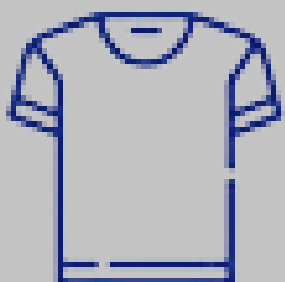
PFAS is most commonly found in consumer products including, aluminum foil, water proof jackets, furniture fabric, pizza boxes, popcorn bags, body wash, shampoo, dental floss, computers, cell phones, take-out containers, and much more.



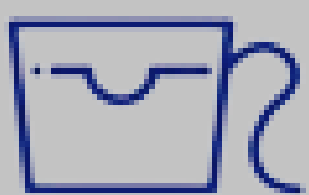
pizza boxes



popcorn bags



clothes



dental floss



cosmetics

How do they get into our drinking water sources?



These compounds are widely found in the environment as the common household products are disposed of and PFAS leaches into the soil and water, finding its way to large food and drinking water sources.

What are next steps?

Recently, MassDEP issued a new drinking water regulation that limit the sum of six PFAS compounds (known as the PFAS6) to 20 nanograms per liter (ng/L), or 20 parts per trillion (ppt). The new state drinking water standard requires public water suppliers like us to test for the presence of PFAS.

What does this mean for my drinking water?

The Ipswich Water Department remains vigilant in meeting the goals of source water protection. The Town has completed initial PFAS testing in November 2020, with confirmatory testing completed in December 2020. Although some levels of PFAS were detected in Ipswich's water sources, we continue to work with MassDEP to ensure compliance with the state regulations.

Testing requirements will continue to be met and additional information will be provided as more results are available. For more, please visit our website at: <https://www.ipswichma.gov/913/PFAS>

