

PFAS IN DRINKING WATER

PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES

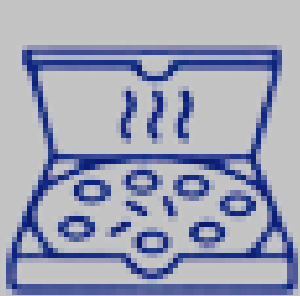
July 2021

What are they?

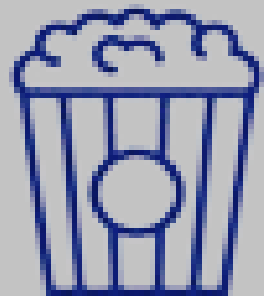
A family of chemicals called per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) that are used for nonstick, stain-resistant and water-proof coatings, in numerous consumer products, industrial applications and firefighting foams.

Where are they found?

PFAS is most commonly found in consumer products that are disposed of and leach into the soil 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.



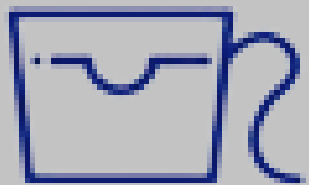
pizza boxes



popcorn bags



clothes



dental floss



cosmetics

How do they get into our drinking water sources?



What does this mean for my drinking water?

The Ipswich Water Department remains vigilant in meeting the goals of source water protection. The Town 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, all test results were compliant with the state regulations.

In accordance with MassDEP drinking water regulations, routine quarterly water samples from all water sources in April 2021 began being collected. The Browns Well sample was invalidated by MassDEP during a quality control review and was resampled in May. The results were greater than 10 parts per trillion (ppt) but less than the state Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 20 ppt. This well is now required to be tested monthly for PFAS levels.

What are next steps?

In May, the Water Department made the decision to cease operation of Browns Well to protect our customers. Although monthly testing of the well will continue, no water is entering the water distribution system. **With Browns Well out of service it is more important than ever for customers to use water wisely and abide by the imposed water restrictions.**

The Town is taking immediate steps to address this critical situation and has engaged its consulting engineers to develop a plan to reconfigure the drinking water system to blend Browns Well water with the Town's surface water sources to be fully treated by the Water Treatment Plant on High Street. By doing so, the blended water would reduce the PFAs levels and restore full operational capacity of Browns Well - adding both capacity and resilience to the public water supply.

No PFAS levels have exceeded the MCL due to the Town's proactive response in taking Browns Well off-line to protect its customers.

All PFAS results can be found at <https://www.ipswichma.gov/913/PFAS>

