

PFOA/PFOS Perfluorinated Compounds (PFCs) and Drinking Water Supplies

Frequently Asked Questions

Are there PFOA/PFOS aka PFCs in Mount Laurel's water?

None of the substances in this family of contaminants were detected in Mount Laurel MUA's water, pursuant to testing performed in accordance with federal law (USEPA) under the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 3 (UCMR3).

What are PFCs and how do they get into drinking water?

- PFCs are a class of manmade chemicals.
 - Commercial and industrial uses
 - Produced and used for over 60 years
- The main source of PFCs in water is via distribution of the substances on the ground either legally or illegally, as several PFCs are/were used for fire-fighting. The PFCs then leach into groundwaters or is carried into surface waters; these waters may be used as potable water supply sources.

Are PFCs regulated?

- New Jersey was the first state to set a limit for PFNA (perfluorononanoic acid) with an MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level) of 0.013 ug/L (parts per billion).
- PFCs (including PFNA) are not currently regulated in drinking water by USEPA (US Environmental Protection Agency)
- The state has scheduled our water system to begin testing for PFNA in 2020
- PFOA, PFNA, PFOS, PFHxS and other long chain homologues production by major U.S. manufacturers has been or is being voluntarily ended.
- U.S. production has stopped or is being phased out.
- Replacements have been introduced.

Can water treatment devices remove PFCs?

- Water provided by the Mount Laurel MUA was tested under the UCMR3 and found to be non-detected in our water, so a home water treatment device should not be necessary.
- However, PFCs can be removed from drinking water by treatment systems specifically designed for PFC removal, such as:
 - Granular activated carbon
 - Reverse osmosis
 - Possibly ion exchange

For additional information, use the link below to access the USEPA

<https://www.epa.gov/pfas>