



Perfluorinated Compounds and our Drinking Water

Missoula Water has monitored for Six Perfluorinated Compounds during the required federal monitoring; also known as “unregulated contaminant monitoring rule”. Samples were collected from our wells through the years 2012-2016.

The reason the results of these compounds are not listed on the consumer confidence report is because every sample collected throughout the years came back as non-detect; a zero value.

Missoula Water is very aware of these compounds and is remaining vigilant by continuing to focus on education. When it is time to sample for the compounds again, staff will collect the samples and inform the public of the results. Everyone drinks the water; therefore, maintaining the highest quality of water is a top priority for Missoula Water. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Missoula Water at (406) 552-6700.

“Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of man-made chemicals that includes Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA), Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS), GenX, and many other chemicals. PFAS have been manufactured and used in a variety of industries around the globe, including in the United States since the 1940s. PFOA and PFOS have been the most extensively produced and studied of these chemicals. Both chemicals are very persistent in the environment and in the human body – meaning they don’t break down and they can accumulate over time. There is evidence that exposure to PFAS can lead to adverse human health effects.

PFAS can be found in:

- Food packaged in PFAS-containing materials, processed with equipment that used PFAS, or grown in PFAS-contaminated soil or water.
- Commercial household products, including stain- and water-repellent fabrics, nonstick products (e.g., Teflon), polishes, waxes, paints, cleaning products, and fire-fighting foams (a major source of groundwater contamination at airports and military bases where firefighting training occurs).
- Workplace, including production facilities or industries (e.g., chrome plating, electronics manufacturing or oil recovery) that use PFAS.
- Drinking water, typically localized and associated with a specific facility (e.g., manufacturer, landfill, wastewater treatment plant, firefighter training facility).
- Living organisms, including fish, animals and humans, where PFAS have the ability to build up and persist over time.

Certain PFAS chemicals are no longer manufactured in the United States as a result of phase outs including the [PFOA Stewardship Program](#) in which eight major chemical manufacturers agreed to eliminate the use of PFOA and PFOA-related chemicals in their products and as emissions from their facilities. Although PFOA and PFOS are no longer manufactured in the United States, they are still produced internationally and can be imported into the United States in consumer goods such as carpet, leather and apparel, textiles, paper and packaging, coatings, rubber and plastics.” (EPA, 2021)

Missoula Water’s results for 2013-2015 at: <http://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/2242/Water-Quality>



The State of Montana Department of Environmental Quality has a web page devoted to Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances for information please visit: <http://deq.mt.gov/DEQAdmin/PFAS>

Additional information directly from the EPA's link concerning PFAS:

<https://www.epa.gov/pfas/basic-information-pfas>

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References

EPA. (2021, February 22). *Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)*. Retrieved from United States Environmental Protection Agency: <https://www.epa.gov/pfas>