

Q&A: Region 10 State Information on PFAS and Drinking Water

How is PFAS regulated?

PFAS are not yet regulated under the national Safe Drinking Water Act, but EPA is currently in the process of developing regulations. Learn more on the EPA PFAS page [here](#).

In the meantime, EPA has set “Health Advisory Levels” (HALs) for 4 PFAS to guide safety decisions around PFAS in drinking water. For information on HALs for PFAS, visit the EPA PFAS Q&A page [here](#).

HALs represent the level of PFAS in drinking water at which no health effects would be expected to occur over a lifetime of exposure. HALs are non-regulatory and non-enforceable, meaning states are not required to take action if results exceed the HALs. However, several states have adopted their own PFAS drinking water standards and regulations.

The current EPA PFAS HALs are:

PFOA: 0.004 ppt (2022 interim HAL, previously 70 ppt)

PFOS: 0.02 ppt (2022 interim HAL, previously 70 ppt)

GenX: 10 ppt

PFBS: 2,000 ppt

**ppt = parts per trillion, a unit measuring concentration of PFAS in water*

Where can I find more information about PFAS in my state?

We’ve gathered PFAS information for each state in Region 10 (Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington). See below to learn more!

Alaska (AK)

Where can I find information about PFAS in AK?

AK Department of Health PFAS page [here](#).

How does AK regulate PFAS in drinking water?

Alaska has an action value that aligns with the past EPA HALs for PFOA and PFOS (70 ppt, alone or combined), which they are still following as they review the 2022 interim HALs for PFOA and PFOS (0.004 ppt and 0.02 ppt, respectively). More information can be found on the AK Department of Conservation (DEC) PFAS page [here](#).

Is it mandatory to test water sources for PFAS in AK?

Testing for PFAS in drinking water is currently not required in AK. However, the AK Department of Transportation and Public Facilities is conducting an evaluation of PFAS contamination at state-owned properties or sites that the department is responsible for.

I'm concerned about my child being exposed and want to test my water for PFAS. How can I do this?

Private labs can test water samples for PFAS. Residents can contact a laboratory to send water samples, but these tests can be costly. At this time, there are no state funding opportunities in AK to cover the cost of testing water samples. AK DEC does publish PFAS results from drinking water wells that have been sampled throughout the state. Those results can be found [here](#).

Are there ongoing initiatives to address PFAS contamination in AK?

AK DEC leads the state's contaminated site response and drinking water testing for PFAS. The AK Action Plan for PFAS can be viewed on their website [here](#).

I have more questions about PFAS in AK. Who can I contact?

Sarah Yoder (sarah.yoder@alaska.gov), Environmental Public Health Program Manager
(907) 269-8054

Idaho (ID)

Where can I find information about PFAS in ID?

Idaho Department of Health and Welfare PFAS page [here](#).

How does ID regulate PFAS in drinking water?

Currently, there are no state specific regulations on PFAS in ID.

Is it mandatory to test water sources for PFAS in ID?

No. Idaho does not mandate PFAS testing in private or public water sources.

I'm concerned about my child being exposed and want to test my water for PFAS. How can I do this?

Private labs can test water samples for PFAS. Residents can contact a laboratory to send water samples, but these tests can be costly. At this time, there are no state funding opportunities in ID to cover the cost of testing water samples.

Are there ongoing initiatives to address PFAS contamination in ID?

The ID Department of Environmental Quality is conducting sampling throughout the state as part of a voluntary public water systems program to better inform system owners and operators. This program is ongoing to evaluate the presence of PFAS as the Department of Health and Welfare coordinates with multiple partner agencies on the new and developing policies addressing PFAS.

I have more questions about PFAS in ID. Who can I contact?

Drew Pendleton (Drew.Pendleton@dhw.idaho.gov), Toxicologist & Health Assessor, Idaho Department of Health & Welfare

Norka Paden (Norka.Paden@deq.idaho.gov), Toxicologist/Risk Assessor, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, Office: (208) 373-0579

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Oregon (OR)

Where can I find information about PFAS in OR?

OR Health Authority (OHA) PFAS FAQ page [here](#) and OHA Drinking Water Services page [here](#).

How does OR regulate PFAS in drinking water?

OR has set HALs for 6 PFAS in drinking water:

PFOS: 30 ppt

PFOA: 30 ppt

PFNA: 30 ppt

PFHxS: 30 ppt

PFBS: 2000 ppt

GenX: 10 ppt

The HAL is exceeded when any one of the individual PFAS is above 30 ppt, or when the sum of the first 4 PFAS (PFOS, PFOA, PFNA, PFHxS) is above 30 ppt. These HALs are not regulatory and not enforceable.

Is it mandatory to test water sources for PFAS in OR?

At this time, testing for PFAS in water sources is not required. In 2021, 160 samples were collected at 140 public water systems across the state, and none were found to have PFAS that exceeded the state's HAL. Results from the sampling project can be found [here](#). It is not mandatory to test private well water for PFAS or report lab results of private wells that exceed the HAL.

I'm concerned about my child being exposed and want to test my water for PFAS. How can I do this?

Private labs can test water samples for PFAS. Residents can contact a laboratory to send water samples, but these tests can be costly. At this time, there are no state funding opportunities in OR to cover the cost of testing water samples in private wells. There is limited funding available from an EPA grant to the state of OR, but it is restricted to regulated public water systems only. Contact your local water board to see if they received grant funding to test the local water supply.

Are there ongoing initiatives to address PFAS contamination in OR?

OR DEQ has a [Toxic Reduction Strategy](#) to address PFAS and other environmental health threats throughout the state. To learn more, visit the Oregon.gov PFAS page [here](#).

I have more questions about PFAS in OR. Who can I contact?

Gregg Baird, Emerging Contaminant Specialist, 503-936-1657, gregg.c.baird@dhsosha.state.or.us

Washington (WA)

Where can I find information about PFAS in WA?

WA Department of Health (DOH) PFAS page [here](#) and WA Department of Ecology PFAS page [here](#).

How does WA regulate PFAS in drinking water?

WA has set State Action Levels (SALs) for 5 PFAS in drinking water:

PFOA: 10 ppt
PFOS: 15 ppt
PFNA: 9 ppt
PFHxS: 65 ppt
PFBS: 345 ppt

Is it mandatory to test water sources for PFAS in WA?

Yes, most public water systems must now test for PFAS every 3 years and report results to their customers if PFAS levels exceed any of the 5 SALs. Testing private wells for PFAS is voluntary and not regulated under chapter 246-290 WAC.

I'm concerned about my child being exposed and want to test my water for PFAS. How can I do this?

Private labs can test water samples for PFAS.* Residents can contact a laboratory to send water samples, but these tests can be costly. WA has some funding available to support public water systems to comply with initial state PFAS monitoring requirements. WA DOH has requested funding support from the legislature to assist residents in testing their private well water systems.

*WA Department of Ecology accredits private labs that offer PFAS drinking water testing. To see a list of accredited labs, click [here](#).

Are there ongoing initiatives to address PFAS contamination in WA?

Yes, WA has several efforts underway to reduce people's exposure to PFAS and to prevent further releases of PFAS into our environment. To learn about these initiatives, see the "What Our State is Doing to Address PFAS Contamination" section on the WA DOH PFAS page [here](#).

I have more questions about PFAS in WA. Who can I contact?

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