

What are PFAS? (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances)

- PFAS are man-made chemicals that have been in use since the 1940s to make materials resistant to water, grease, heat, and stains.
- Certain types of PFAS such as PFOA and PFOS are no longer produced in the US, yet they are still found in humans and the environment.
- PFAS break down slowly and can build up over time in people, animals, and the environment.
- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) limit for PFOA and PFOS in drinking water is 4 ng/L.

PFAS in Georgia

- Since 2013, public water systems throughout Georgia have tested for PFAS in drinking water.
- Between 2023 and 2025, more than **50 water systems** across the state had PFAS levels above the EPA's 4 ng/L limit. **North Georgia** had the most water systems with high PFAS levels.
- The highest levels of PFAS were detected in Calhoun (58 ng/L) and Warner Robbins (87 ng/L), more than **14x** and **20x** the EPA's limit.

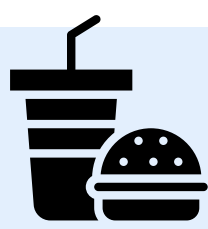
How do PFAS get into my body?

PFAS can enter your body in a variety of ways including skin contact, eating, drinking, or breathing it in.

98%

of Americans have PFAS in their blood

Common sources of PFAS



certain foods and food packaging



consumer products



contaminated drinking water



firefighting foam

What are the effects of PFAS on my health?



increased risk of certain cancers



increased risk of high cholesterol



reduced immune system strength



reduced fertility



thyroid gland disruption

What about my kids?

PFAS exposure in children is associated with low birth weight, accelerated puberty, behavioral changes, and changes in bone structure.

Who is most at risk?



- fetuses
- babies
- children

- Certain workers (e.g., firefighters, chemical manufacturing workers, and other industrial workers)



Can I test for PFAS ...

in my blood?

To learn more about blood testing, visit <https://pfas-exchange.org/>. Their [blood testing fact sheet](#) includes details about blood testing, including labs:



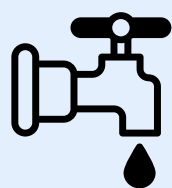
in my water?

Reach out to your local water utility organization to ask how they are addressing PFAS. They also may be able to help you test your water for PFAS or share previous testing results. <https://pfas-exchange.org/> also has general information on PFAS in water.

To learn more about PFAS testing in Georgia water, check out the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) [PFAS Story Map](#): [You can also email the Georgia EPD at \[askepd@gaepd.org\]\(mailto:askepd@gaepd.org\).](#)



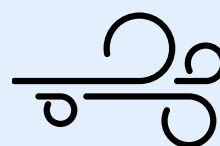
How can I lower my exposure to PFAS?



Use a water filter that can filter PFAS *



Switch to PFAS-free brands ^



Seek out ventilated spaces if you work with chemicals

Additional Resources

*More about water filters:

[Drinking Water Filters Certified to Reduce PFAS \(epa.gov\)](#)

[Duke University - PFAS and Drinking Water](#)

^ Websites for PFAS-free products:

[The Environmental Working Group \(ewg.org\)](#)

[PFAS Central \(pfascentral.org\)](#)

[Clean Water Action \(cleanwateraction.org\)](#)