



WQAW POSITION PAPER: PFAS

WQAW POSITION STATEMENT: The final barrier to ensuring clean drinking water is through water treatment systems either point of entry (POE) or point of use (POU). For most regulated and non-regulated contaminants, certified (state approved) water treatment devices can reduce these contaminants below the EPA guidelines.

As the state Legislature looks to address Wisconsin’s water issues, we believe water treatment systems are integral to the safety of Wisconsinite’s drinking water and as a permanent solution to many of these water concerns.

WHAT ARE PFAS: Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a large family of man-made chemicals that contain carbon, fluorine, and other elements. These chemicals have been in use since the 1940s and are found in a variety of products including firefighting foams, household products such as non-stick cookware, food packaging, and stain and water repellants.

HOW TO REMOVE PFAS FROM WATER*

<p>Residential Treatment Point-of-Entry (POE) Point-of-Use (POU)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) – Chemicals like PFAS stick to the small pieces of carbon as the water passes through. • Powdered Activated Carbon (PAC) – The carbon is powdered and is added to the water. The chemicals then stick to the powdered carbon as the water passes through. • Ion Exchange Resins –Small beads (called resins) are made of hydrocarbons that work like magnets. The chemicals stick to the beads and are removed as the water passes through. • Nanofiltration and reverse osmosis –A process where water is pushed through a membrane with small pores. The membrane acts like a wall that can stop chemicals and particles from passing into drinking water.
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*EPA RECOMMENDATIONS