



## 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"> <li>• <b>Granular Activated Carbon (GAC)</b> – Chemicals like PFAS stick to the small pieces of carbon as the water passes through.</li> <li>• <b>Powdered Activated Carbon (PAC)</b> – The carbon is powdered and is added to the water. The chemicals then stick to the powdered carbon as the water passes through.</li> <li>• <b>Ion Exchange Resins</b> –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.</li> <li>• <b>Nanofiltration and reverse osmosis</b> –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.</li> </ul>
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\*EPA RECOMMENDATIONS