

Elevated PFAS in your water: Steps you can take to protect yourself

Get alternative water from your town (or steps your water supplier can take)

- Take wells offline temporarily
- Permanently close the well and stop drawing drinking water from the well.
- Use alternative water: A town can connect to an alternative water source. This might require the town to build a new pipeline or drill new wells. While this process is going forward, towns might distribute bottled water.
- Mix water from different source wells to provide water with less than 20 ppt PFAS6
- Treat water using Granular Activated Carbon (GAC), Reverse Osmosis (RO) or other treatment technology



Treating water: Install home filtration system

- Two options for breadth of system:
 - Point of Entry (POE) systems treat water in a whole-home, more expensive
 - Point of Use (POU) systems treat water where it is used, one source, usually under the sink. Water pitchers with Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) filters may also be used.
- Types of treatment systems:
 - Reverse Osmosis (RO) systems remove and then discharge the PFAS in a concentrated wastewater stream.
 - Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) systems trap the PFAS and other contamination inside the filter so that the PFAS is not discharged back into the environment until the filter is disposed of. GAC filters do need to be replaced when they fill up with chemicals and other contaminants.

Sample water pitcher with Granular Activated Carbon filter



Granular Activated Carbon system



Reverse Osmosis system

What about bottled water?

- The FDA has found that the majority of bottled water does not contain PFAS.
- List of companies licensed by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health with bottled water in compliance for PFAS and other contaminants established by MassDEP, US EPA, and US FDA: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/list-of-bottlers-october-7-2021>
- Bottled water is a short term solution to provide drinking water when a private or public water supply is contaminated.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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