



Water Utilities Begin Testing Drinking Water for PFAS in EPA Study

The New Port Richey Public Works Department's and Tampa Bay Water's top priority is providing high-quality, clean, safe drinking water to residents and businesses of New Port Richey. The water we provide is safe and meets or is better than state and federal drinking water regulations.

The New Port Richey Public Works Department and Tampa Bay Water are participating in a study to help the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) determine regulations for unregulated contaminants, including per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Testing of treated drinking water begins in July 2023 and is repeated quarterly for one year. Results from each test take approximately 6-8 weeks and are shared on the City's and Tampa Bay Water's websites, and with EPA to support setting standards that protect public health.

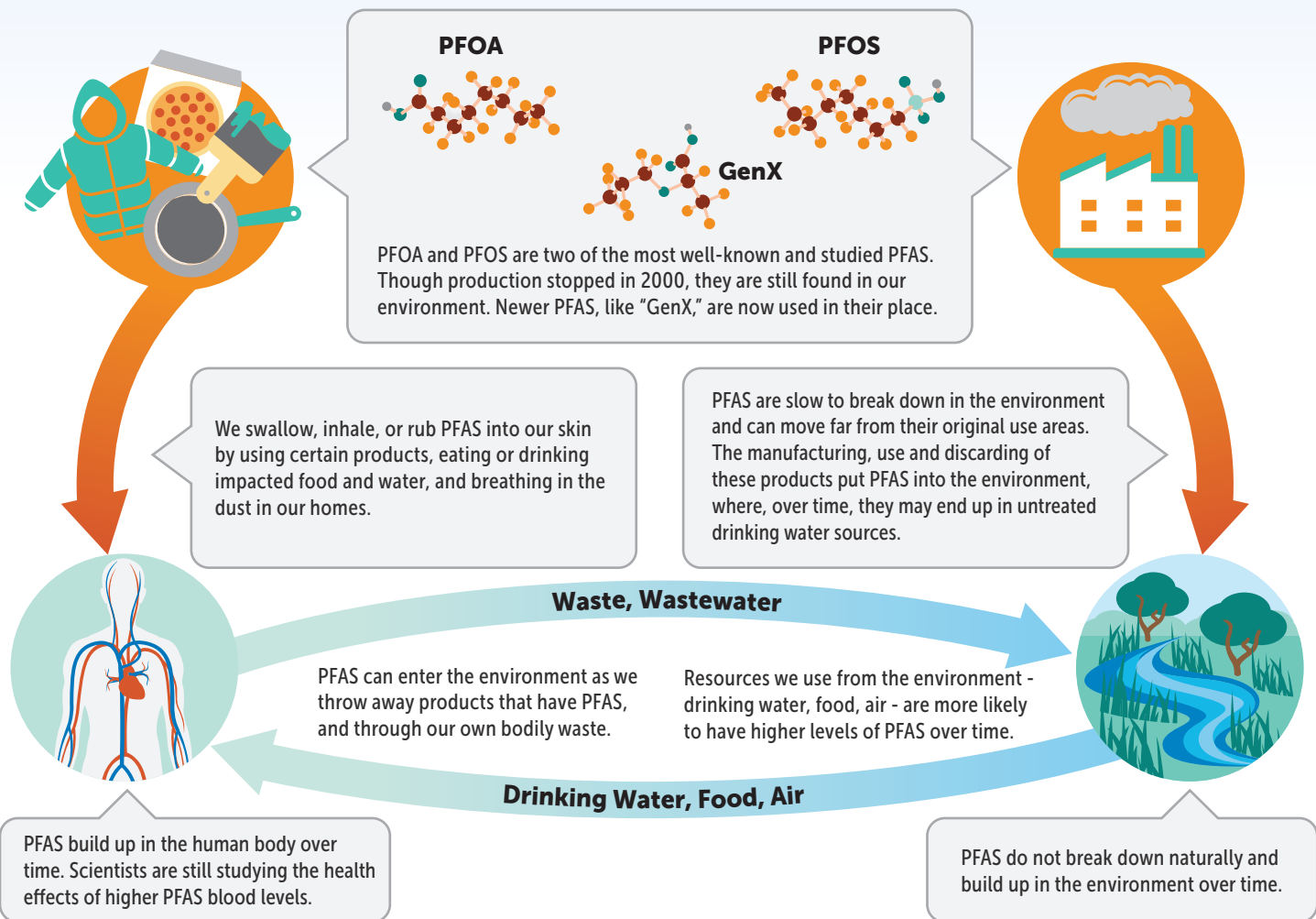
We understand PFAS are a concern for all communities, including here in Tampa Bay, and we want to help residents understand the facts about PFAS.

Contact New Port Richey Public Works: 727-841-4570
cityofnewportrichey.org/city-departments/public-works



What are PFAS?

PFAS are man-made compounds that have been widely used in the manufacturing of clothing, sealants and stains, furniture fabrics, Teflon™-coated products, food packaging, and other materials since the 1940s. They are also used in firefighting foam, carpet manufacturing and other industrial processes.



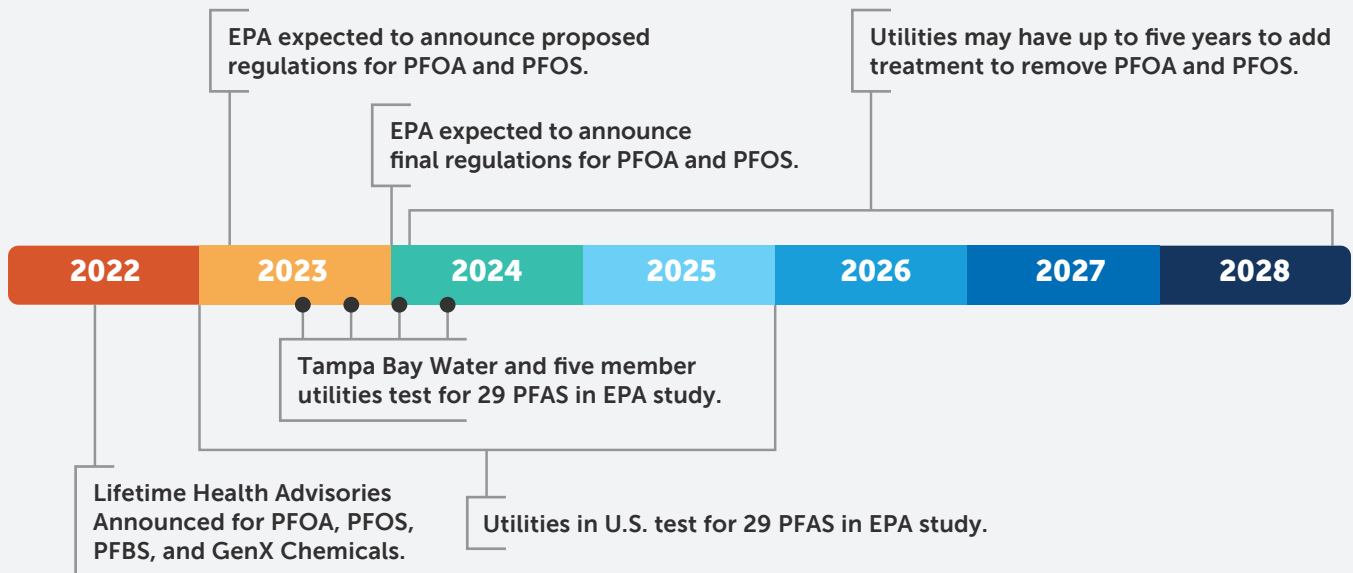


What is EPA doing?

EPA has not yet regulated PFAS in drinking water. EPA continually studies and collects data on unregulated contaminants that are suspected to be present in drinking water. EPA requires sample collection for 30 chemical contaminants by utilities, including PFAS, between 2023 and 2025 using EPA-approved analytical methods.

It can be a lengthy process to set drinking water regulations, but it is important that EPA completes its thorough, scientific process to fully understand the potential health impacts, maximum contaminant levels, analytical methods, and treatment methods to provide public utilities with proven, consistent standards. Tampa Bay Water and the City of New Port Richey are participating in EPA's studies.

Timeline for EPA Drinking Water Regulations for PFAS



How does this affect your utilities?

The City of New Port Richey's and Tampa Bay Water's top priority is providing clean, safe drinking water. We continually monitor the quality of the drinking water to ensure it meets or is better than state and federal drinking water standards.

The City of New Port Richey and Tampa Bay Water support setting regulations for PFAS in drinking water and are participating in EPA's study of PFAS. We will test Tampa Bay regional drinking water to help EPA determine regulations for PFAS.

When EPA sets regulations for PFAS, The City of New Port Richey and Tampa Bay Water will meet those regulations.

Water utilities are responsible for maintaining water quality according to regulations while also keeping drinking water affordable. Treatment to remove PFAS from water can happen at utilities and in our homes – using technologies like activated carbon, ion exchange and reverse osmosis – but treatment can be expensive. Our country's regulatory process helps make sure we are delivering the safest water at a cost affordable to all.

How Can I Learn More About PFAS in Drinking Water?

More information on PFAS including ways to reduce exposure can be found at tampabaywater.org/pfas.

