

PFAS Facts

APRIL 2024

What Are PFAS?

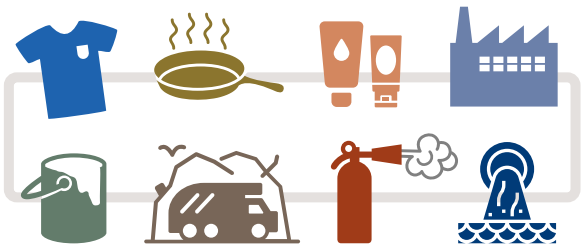
Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of man-made chemicals, including PFOA, PFOS and GenX, which is a chemical replacement for PFOA. For more than 70 years, PFAS have been manufactured and used in variety of industries worldwide.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), exposure to certain PFAS can lead to adverse health effects in humans.

Where Are PFAS Found?

PFAS are man-made contaminants that are found in thousands of products that are used daily, including our shampoo, clothing, cleaning products, food wrappers, non-stick cookware, firefighting foam and carpet.

PFAS are in 1,000s of Commonly Used Products and the Environment



Most people worldwide have measurable amounts of PFAS in their blood and are typically exposed to PFAS through eating food grown in contaminated water/soil or consuming food from packaging that contains PFAS; breathing air with dust particles from contaminated soil, upholstery, clothing; inhaling fabric sprays containing PFAS; or drinking contaminated water.

How Did PFAS Get Into Our Water?

Like many communities throughout the nation, small amounts of PFAS are found in our water supply. Water districts, like EVMWD, don't put these chemicals into water, but over time they have entered our waterways through manufacturing, landfills and wastewater effluent.

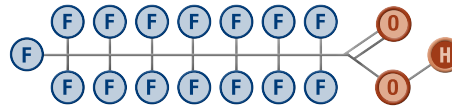
What is EVMWD Doing to Treat and Remove PFAS?

Our customers are our top priority, and EVMWD is closely monitoring PFAS in our water supply. Our water is thoroughly treated and tested thousands of times per year to ensure it meets water quality standards for state and federal regulations. If PFAS are discovered at a reportable level, EVMWD will take immediate and appropriate action to ensure water meets state and federal regulations.

In March 2020, PFAS were detected in Canyon Lake above State Response Levels and the water source was taken offline. Until its PFAS levels are treated and reduced, EVMWD is replacing this supply with imported water from Metropolitan Water District. EVMWD has evaluated multiple treatment alternatives to treat for PFAS in Canyon Lake. EVMWD is pursuing a hybrid Granular Activated Carbon and Ion Exchange (GAC/IX) treatment to lower levels of PFAS and address other water quality concerns including taste and odor. Pilot testing is anticipated to begin in early 2021.

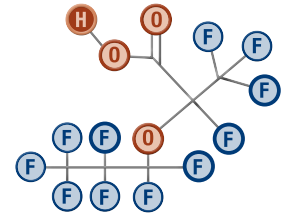


PFOA and PFOS Chemicals



U.S. manufacturers voluntarily phased out PFOA and PFOS, two specific PFAS chemicals.

GenX Chemicals



GenX chemicals are a replacement for PFOA.

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How Do We Monitor Our Water for PFAS?

In California, the State Division of Drinking Water (DDW) has a “Notification Level” and a “Response Level” for water agencies. EVMWD follows these guidelines for

notifying our customers and other stakeholders.

Notification Level (NL): Requires a water agency to notify government officials when PFAS in the water exceeds the set NL. In California, the NL for PFOA is 5.1 ppt; the NL for PFOS is 6.5 ppt.

Response Level (RL): Requires agencies to take action for readings above 10 parts per trillion of PFOA or 40 parts per trillion of PFOS. As of February 2020, the DDW recommends that the water agency remove the well from service or provide treatment if it exceeds that amount.

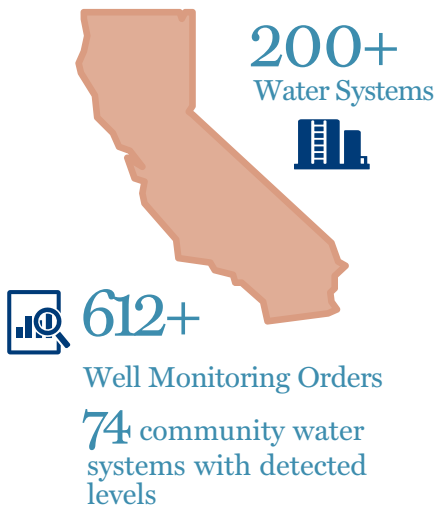
What Does a Part Per Trillion Look Like?



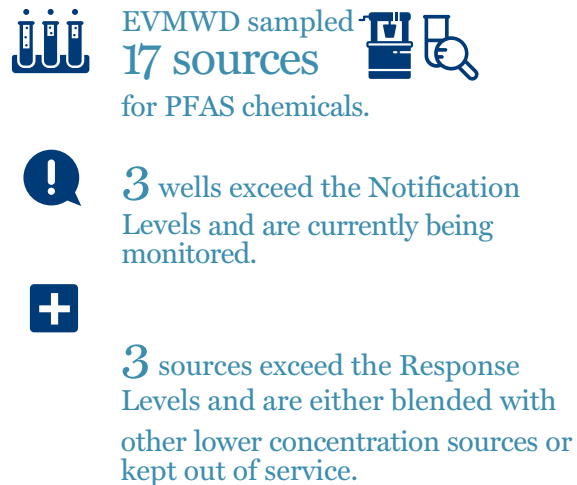
A part per trillion = a microscopic measurement for something in the water and is equal to one drop of water in the Rose Bowl Stadium.



PFAS in California



PFAS in EVMWD Water Service Area



More Information

EVMWD: [evmwd.com/pfas](https://www.evmwd.com/pfas)

EPA: [epa.gov/pfas](https://www.epa.gov/pfas)

DDW: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/pfas/drinking_water.html

FDA: [fda.gov/food/chemicals/and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas](https://www.fda.gov/food/chemicals-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas)

