



Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are synthetic chemicals with long chains of carbon-fluorine bonds which are difficult to break down. The two most common types of PFAS substances are PFOA (perfluorooctanoic acid) and PFOS (perfluorooctane sulfonate), considered "forever chemicals." What makes these chemicals effective in consumer goods also leads to dangerous persistence in the environment and human body.

Where Does It Come From?

PFAS chemicals have been used effectively since the 1950s to manufacture nonstick and water-resistant consumer products, such as nonstick cookware, water-proof clothing, stain-resistant furniture, fire-fighting foam, water resistant boots, and food packaging.













Why Is PFAS a Problem?

These chemicals have now contaminated drinking water sources in many areas of the U.S. and around the world. Drinking water with high levels of PFAS creates potential public health risks such as cancer, thyroid disease, high cholesterol, low birth weight infants, and immune-system problems.

Are There any Regulations?

The U.S. EPA has not finalized maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for PFAS in drinking water. It has established a non-enforceable health advisory level of 70 parts per trillion for the PFAS chemicals PFOS and PFOA combined.

Individual states have adopted their own MCLs, and many are stricter levels than what the EPA suggests. Many other states are in the process of potential legislation, regulations, or other actions to help address this growing issue.



What Are the Treatment Options?

Three treatment solutions are currently accepted as the Best Available Technologies (BAT) to remove PFAS: granular activated carbon (GAC), ion exchange (IX), or reverse osmosis (RO). Testing and piloting are important for technology selection as each treatment option provides varying levels of effectiveness for PFAS removal, depending on chemical and source water characteristics. These treatment options are available for industrial applications, such as airports, military bases, chemical and manufacturing facilities, or at municipal drinking water plants.



How Can WesTech Help?

WesTech has over 45 years of experience as a water and wastewater treatment provider, with numerous installations of all three FPA-recommended solutions:

- Granular activated carbon
- lon exchange
- Reverse osmosis

WesTech's fully-integrated technology allows us to customize a PFAS treatment solution for your needs.



- Piloting or bench-scale testing solutions
- Pretreatment to address other contaminants
- Consultation and site visits
- Complete operations
- Mobile/rental equipment





Contact WesTech to discuss bench-scale testing, piloting, and design of treatment equipment.

Working Together for Clean Water

