

Springfield, VT PFAS water testing and results

In recent years the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued numerous “health advisory” levels for the chemicals known as PFAS. There are 26 chemicals tested under the PFAS name that can be broken down into pfoa, pfos, pfhxs, pfhpa, and pfna. In 2016 the EPA established the first advisory level at 70 ppt (parts per trillion). In 2020 the State of Vermont issued their first mcl (maximum contaminant level) at 20 ppt PFAS. Out of one of our three pump stations a level of 2.95 PFOA was detected. Now in 2023 the EPA is in the process of lowering the advisory levels of PFOA and PFOS to .004 ppt and .02 ppt respectively and a do not drink order takes effect at 20 ppt. The technology we currently have only allows us to test to 2 ppt. This means that under the new standard any detection at all triggers a “health advisory” but not the mcl limit (do not drink order). The Springfield Water Department is committed to supplying the highest quality drinking water to all consumers and is taking this situation very seriously. Although the levels detected are very small, we want to inform the public and are looking into what may have caused the hit and remediate the problem. As well as under the health advisory rule we will be testing for PFAS much more frequently as we work to get our levels to nondetectable.

Although we are below the “do not drink” levels:

If you have health concerns talk to your doctor although information on the effects is still being studied.

In-home or point-of-use carbon filters are available at most stores but keep in mind they have been tested to meet the old standard of 70 ppt. They have not been tested to meet Vermont’s standard of 20 ppt and not at Springfield’s levels of 2.95.

Boiling, freezing, or letting water stand does not reduce PFAS levels.

Vermont has tested some brands of bottled water and results can be found at <https://dec.vermont.gov/pfas>

You can find more information at <https://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/PFAS/PFAS-Training-05.19.20.pdf>