

# PFAS FACTS

## WHAT IS PFAS?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are man-made compounds used in manufacturing carpet, clothing, furniture fabrics and paper food packaging. They are used to make items water- and stain-resistant. PFAS is also found in products such as firefighting foams, cleaners, cosmetics, paints, adhesives and insecticides. PFAS is known as a “forever chemical” because it does not break down in the environment.



## GREAT LAKES WATER AUTHORITY

The Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) has been testing for PFAS since 2009 and is pleased to assure the public that these chemicals were not detected.

Test results from GLWA's five water treatment plants are online at GLWA's website, [glwwater.org](https://www.glwwater.org). Search the term “PFAS.”

[2021 Results](#)   [2020 Results](#)   [2019 Results](#)   [2018 Results](#)

GLWA takes its responsibility to public health and safety seriously and can confirm that its water remains of unquestionable quality.

## STATEWIDE TESTING

In 2018, the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) began testing drinking water from all community water supplies for PFAS.

Test results are available at the State's website:

<https://www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse/>

## RESOURCES

For more information on PFAS in Michigan, visit the State's website. There you'll find Fact Sheets, FAQs, and testing results, as well as an independent PFAS Science Advisory Report, developed by nationally recognized experts.

<https://www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse/>



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## MICHIGAN'S DRINKING WATER STANDARDS

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy's (EGLE) PFAS rule, which went into effect in August 2020, includes drinking water standards that establish maximum contaminant levels (MCL) for seven types of PFAS.

## PFAS DRINKING WATER RULE – QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

| CONTAMINANT                                    | MCL (ng/L)* |
|--|-------------|
| Perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA)                  | 6           |
| Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA)                  | 8           |
| Perfluorooctane Sulfonic Acid (PFOS)           | 16          |
| Perfluorohexane Sulfonic Acid (PFHxS)          | 51          |
| Hexafluoropropylene Oxide Dimer Acid (HFPO-DA) | 370         |
| Perfluorobutane Sulfonic Acid (PFBS)           | 420         |
| Perfluorohexanoic Acid (PFHxA)                 | 400,000     |

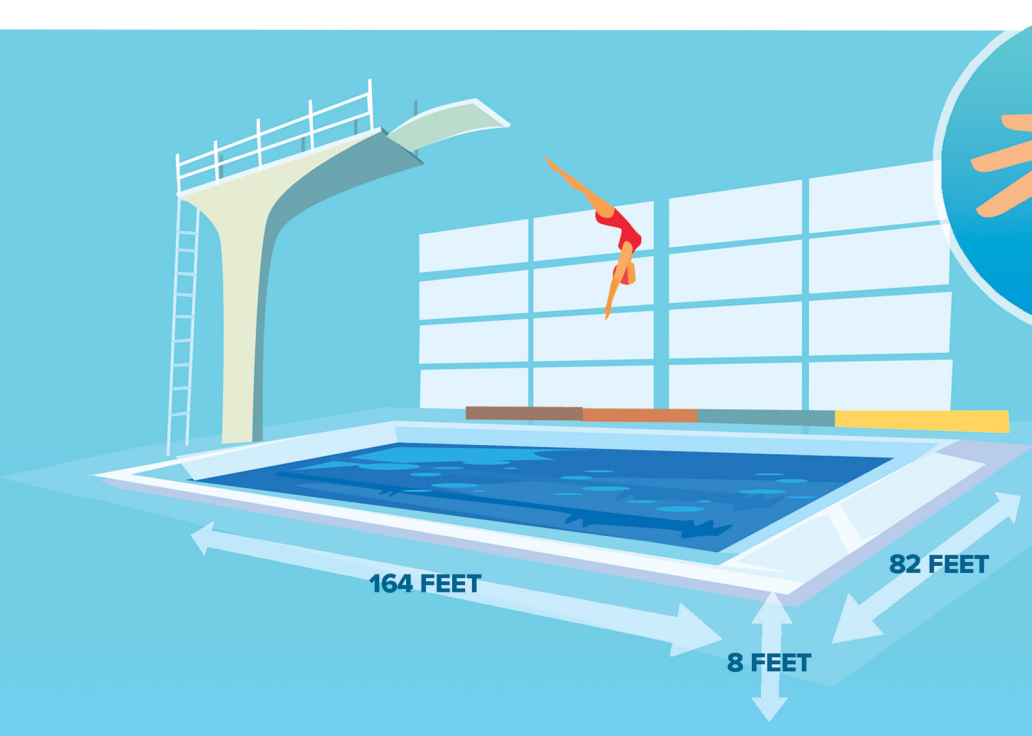
\*ng/L = Nanogram/liter

## HEALTH EFFECTS

Scientists are still learning about the health effects of exposures to mixtures of PFAS compounds. Although more research is needed, some studies in people have shown that certain PFAS *may*:

- affect growth, learning, and behavior of infants and older children
- lower a woman's chance of getting pregnant
- interfere with the body's natural hormones
- increase cholesterol levels
- affect the immune system
- increase the risk of cancer

If you have medical questions, talk with your doctor.



A nanogram-per-liter is equal to a grain of sand in an Olympic-size swimming pool.



Member Outreach