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## Study Finds Toxic 'Forever Chemicals' in Nearly Half of U.S. Tap Water

A recent study from the United States Geological Survey (USGS) found that at least 45% of U.S. tap water is estimated to contain one or more types "forever chemicals," or PFAS.

### What Are PFAS?

PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) emerged in the 1940s as repellents of fire, water, oil and stains. Their nonstick properties, ability to withstand extreme temperatures, and resistance to degradation make them useful components for commercial and industrial products. They are commonly used in nonstick cookware, fire-fighting foams, microwave popcorn bags, pizza boxes, cosmetics, and water-resistant fabrics.

Though the EPA says most people come in contact with these "forever chemicals" through consumer products, we can also be exposed through the air we breathe or the foods we eat. In addition, we can ingest PFAS if the water-soluble chemicals have entered our water supplies, which can happen over time when they find their way into the soil and then into groundwater or surface water.\*

### What is the EPA Doing?

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has in the past warned that a certain concentration of manufactured chemicals in drinking water could be bad for our health. Now the regulatory agency is taking a major step to address PFAS.

In March 2023, the EPA issued a proposal for the first-ever national drinking water standards for these so-called "forever chemicals" that break down very slowly in the environment and in the human body. The proposed regulation would require public water systems to monitor for the six PFAS, notify the public of their levels, and reduce the levels in drinking water if they exceed the proposed standards.

### Stricter Standards Have Emerged Over Time

The Safe Drinking Water Act gives the EPA the authority to set enforceable rules for drinking water contaminants and require monitoring of public water systems. Its latest move represents an evolution that has been largely guided by science.

As the EPA establishes more stringent standards for PFAS, many utilities will likely need to invest in certain advanced technologies. "It's going to take time for municipalities to find solutions to meet the guidance," says Chia Kung, director of drinking water product management for Culligan International. "The good news is we have products you can buy right now for your home that can help protect you from PFAS."

\*Contaminants may not be present in your water.

[Click here to read full article from Culligan.com](#)

## Culligan's Solution to Treat PFA's

The Culligan Aquasential Smart Reverse Osmosis System, equipped with *Total Defense* or *Total Defense + Mineral Cartridge*, is a certified solution to reduce PFAS in drinking water, as tested by an accredited 3rd party laboratory to NSF/ANSI 53.



**Fall Special:**  
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The Aquasential™ HE Softener

The Aquasential™ Smart High Efficiency (HE) Water Softener

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## What our customers are saying!

**Alan did great work.**

Thomas K.  
Blacksburg, VA

**The service technician did an outstanding job!**

John M.  
Nellysford, VA

**We are happy with Culligan's services.**

Ben & Sharon C.  
Manakin Sabot, VA

**Everything! Great product, good stuff!!**

Richard H.  
Summit Point, WV