

# RIVERSIDE PUBLIC UTILITIES VS. POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS)

## What are PFAS?

**PFAS, short for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances,** are a large group of man-made chemicals that include perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS). These man-made chemicals are resistant to heat, water, and oil therefore have been used extensively in consumer products such as nonstick cookware, surface coating for carpeting and upholstery, fast food packaging and fire-fighting foams which most people have been exposed to.



Although PFOA and PFOS are no longer manufactured in the United States, imported goods containing trace amounts of these substances remain in the U.S.

## How does PFAS get into drinking water?

These chemicals can get into drinking water when products containing them are **used or spilled onto the ground or into lakes and rivers.** Once in groundwater, PFAS can easily travel long distances and can contaminate the soil and water supply.



## Federal and state PFAS advisory levels

In 2016, the United States Environmental Protection Agency established a **70 part per trillion (ppt)** combined Lifetime Health Advisory for PFOA and PFOS in drinking water.



The California Division of Drinking Water (DDW) established the Drinking Water Notification Level for PFOA and PFOS, which is the level water agencies are to notify local elected officials and governing bodies of the presence of PFOA or PFOS in local water supplies.

Effective February 2020, DDW set the given Response Levels for PFOA and PFOS, which is the level the state recommends the water not be served.

!	
Notification Levels	Response Levels
PFOA 5.1 ppt	PFOA 10 ppt
PFOS 6.5 ppt	PFOS 40 ppt

## Should I be concerned about RPU's water?



All of RPU's water supply is **blended prior to entering the distribution system** that flows water to your tap. RPU has not detected PFAS above the federal and state notification levels in water distributed to customers. RPU will continue to monitor for PFAS and will report the data to the public in the annual Water Quality Report, published at the end of the fiscal year on [RiversidePublicUtilities.com/Water](https://www.riversidepublicutilities.com/Water).

RPU is committed to providing safe and dependable drinking water that meets or exceeds all state and federal requirements and will continue to remain engaged and implement necessary solutions for PFAS treatment.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**  
[EPA.gov/PFAS](https://www.epa.gov/PFAS)

**State Water Board**  
[WaterBoards.CA.gov/PFAS](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/PFAS)

For additional questions, contact **RPU Water System Representatives at (951) 351-6370** or our **Customer Call Center at (951) 826-5311**