

Filter Program for West Plains Private Well Owners

The Office of Drinking Water (ODW) is giving away free countertop dispenser filters to home that have tested their wells and found high levels of harmful chemicals called [PFAS](#). These homes sent their test results to the Washington Department of Ecology, which found PFAS levels above safe drinking water standards. We are providing the filters through our [Alternative Drinking Water Program](#) (ADWP). We are working with other organizations, like the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Spokane Regional Health District, Eastern Washington University, and the [West Plains Water Coalition](#) to help deliver safe and reliable drinking water to the residents in the area northeast of Spokane.

If you are eligible and would like a filter, we will schedule a time to deliver the filtration unit, replacement filters, and answer questions.

Two Sizes of Countertop Dispenser Filters Are Available



The ADWP is providing eligible homes with either a [Culligan ZeroWater 22 Cup](#) (1.375 gallons) or [52 Cup](#) (3.25 gallons) Water Filtration Dispenser also called a countertop unit and a set of replacement filters. The five-stage filtration technology is certified to reduce PFOA/PFOS (two types of PFAS), lead, chromium and mercury. You can view more information about the filter on the [manufacturer's website](#).

Please remember, all filter systems require regular maintenance to be effective and safe. This includes replacing filter membranes or cartridges when directed in the filter instructions.

How do I dispose of the used Culligan ZeroWater filter?

Please dispose of used PFAS filters at a local hazardous waste collection center. Visit Spokane County Solid Waste's [Household Hazardous Waste webpage](#), their [Disposal Transfer Stations webpage](#), or [Sunshine Disposal and Recycling](#). You can also call 509-477-6800 for more information.

How do I request replacement filters for my ZeroWater Dispenser?



Please contact
Sarita Preuss
DOH, ADWP Lead
odw-adwp@doh.wa.gov
564-233-9512

How do I get follow up PFAS testing?

We are currently setting up this program. If you are using the ADWP provided Culligan ZeroWater 22 Cup or 52 Cup Water Filtration Pitcher, you will be notified once this sampling program is ready.

What are PFAS?

PFAS are a growing public health and environmental concern nationwide. PFAS chemicals are sometimes called “forever chemicals” because they do not break down easily in the environment, so they stay in the environment a long time.

PFAS chemicals can build up in our bodies over time when we are exposed to contaminated water, food, and consumer products. Higher levels of PFAS in your body could affect your immune system and make some vaccinations less effective. Exposure to PFAS could also increase your risk for health issues like kidney and testicular cancer, high cholesterol, high blood pressure during pregnancy, lower birthweights for your baby, and other reproductive issues.

Pregnant people, babies in the womb, and children under six years old may be more vulnerable to health impacts from PFAS exposure because these groups eat more food, drink more water, and breathe more per pound of bodyweight than the average person.

For more information on PFAS and health education materials, [visit our PFAS webpage](#).

How do I reduce exposure to PFAS?

There are six PFAS chemicals that have a Washington state or federal safety standard. If your water test results show one of these PFAS is higher than our State Action Level (SAL) or the EPA MCL, we recommend lowering your exposure by using a water filter certified to lower PFAS in the water you drink and cook with in your home, or by using bottled water. When we decrease our exposure to PFAS, our bodies can start clearing the chemicals for our system.

Not all water filters are effective at removing PFAS from your water. Only filter systems that have been independently tested and certified by a third party, like the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF), are proven to lower PFAS levels in drinking water. Some product descriptions for filters on general online retail sites make false claims about PFAS reduction.

Current certification standards for PFAS filters (as of June 2024) do not yet test if a filter will remove PFAS down to EPA’s new federal regulations on PFAS in drinking water. EPA is working with certification organizations like NSF to meet the new regulations.

Where to go for More Information

- [ODW’s Alternative Drinking Water Program webpage](#) or email odw-adwp@doh.wa.gov.
- Department of Ecology’s [PFAS in West Plains Private Wells webpage](#) or email WestPlainsPFAS@ecy.wa.gov.
- [Spokane Regional Health District’s Airway Heights PFAS Exposure Assessment website](#) or call 509-324-1560, extension 6.
- [West Plains Water Coalition website](#) or email info@westplainswater.org.



DOH 331-759 • November 2024

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