

Under-Sink Filter Program for West Plains Private Well Owners to Self-Install

The Office of Drinking Water (ODW) is giving away free under-sink filters to homes 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 for a filter, you will be contacted and asked if you would like a filter. We will provide information on which filters are available, and an agreement form for you to fill out. We will schedule a time to deliver the filtration unit and replacement filters, and answer questions you may have.

Two Types of Under-Sink Filters are Available



We are providing eligible homes with either a [Pentair ChlorPlus Protect 10 system](#) or a [Pentair FreshPoint F2000 system](#), along with a set of replacement filters. These are also called under-sink filters and are National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) certified to reduce PFOA and PFOS (two types of PFAS). You can view more information about the filters 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 under-sink 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 under-sink filter?



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. We will notify you 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 to find health education materials, [visit our PFAS webpage](#).

How do I reduce my 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 Maximum Contaminate Level (MCL), we recommend lowering your exposure by using a water filter that is 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 from 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.



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