PFAS FAQs

Where Are PFAS Found?
PFAS are man-made contaminants that are found in thousands of products that are used daily, including our shampoo, clothing, cleaning products, food wrappers, non-stick cookware, firefighting foam and carpet. While consumer products are a large source of exposure to these chemicals for most people, drinking water has become an increasing concern due to the persistence and tendency of these chemicals to accumulate in groundwater.

Most people worldwide have measurable amounts of PFAS in their blood and are typically exposed to PFAS through eating food grown in contaminated water/soil or consuming food from packaging that contains PFAS; breathing air with dust particles from contaminated soil, upholstery, clothing; inhaling fabric sprays containing PFAS; or drinking contaminated water. PFAS are called “forever chemicals” because they are made to repel water and are challenging to remove.

How Does PFAS Get Into Our Water?
Water districts do not put these chemicals into the water, but over time trace amounts may enter waterways through manufacturing, landfills and wastewater discharge.

How is PFAS in Water Treated?
If detected, there are several ways PFAS can be treated and removed from water:

- **Treatments:** Granular activated carbon, ion exchange resin or reverse osmosis/nanofiltration
- **Removal:** Remove affected supply from service
- **Blending:** Blend affected water with other unaffected supplies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>PFAS Timeline</th>
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<tr>
<td>1940s</td>
<td>PFAS were developed.</td>
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<td>1950s–60s</td>
<td>Products with PFAS gain popularity; more than 4,500 different kinds of PFAS.</td>
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<td>2000s</td>
<td>US EPA voluntarily phases out PFAS and PFOA; however, these chemicals are still used in products manufactured in other countries.</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>EPA publishes new Lifetime Health Advisory recommending PFOA and PFOS in drinking water, either individually or combined, should not be greater than 70 ppt.</td>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>EPA conducted PFAS sampling of several water sources in the San Gabriel Valley area, including the La Puente Valley County Water District’s (LPVCWD) sources; No PFAS chemicals detected in LPVCWD’s sources.</td>
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<td>2018</td>
<td>Following EPA advisory, CA DDW establishes interim levels and phased approach to investigating.</td>
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<td>2019</td>
<td>CA DDW issues testing orders to 200 water systems and 612 well monitoring orders for areas, such as airports with fire training and response areas, and municipal solid waste landfills, that were identified as the most susceptible to this type of contamination. LPVCWD’s water supply sources were not identified as susceptible to PFAS contamination; no testing is required.</td>
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<td>2019</td>
<td>CA DDW lowers notification levels by more than half to 6.5 ppt for PFOS and 5.1 ppt for PFOA. LPVCWD will voluntarily and proactively sample water in the coming month.</td>
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How Do We Monitor Our Water for PFAS?

In California, the State Division of Drinking Water (DDW) has a “notification level” and a “response level” for water agencies. LPVCWD follows these guidelines for notifying our customers and other stakeholders. PFAS regulations in CA are the most rigorous in the US; each state is in charge of setting its own levels.

**Notification Level (NL):** Requires a water agency to notify government officials when PFAS in the water exceeds the set NL. In California, the NL for PFOA is 5.1 ppt; the NL for PFOS is 6.5 ppt.

**Response Level (RL):** Requires agencies to take action for readings above 70 ppt for PFOS and PFOA individually or combined. The DDW recommends that the water agency remove the source from service or provide treatment if it exceeds that amount.

How are LPVCWD Customers Notified When PFAS is Found in the Water?

If PFAS was found in our water and registers above the state's notification levels when we sample it, we transparently communicate this information with our customers through LPVCWD's annual Consumer Confidence (Water Quality) Report as well as our Agency’s website and newsletter and/or bill stuffers.

In addition, this information is provided to the state's Division of Drinking Water, LPVCWD's governing board, the La Puente City Council, and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors within 30 days of official results from the certified testing laboratory.

**HOW WE TREAT YOUR WATER**

1. Air Stripping Towers remove VOCs to below detection levels.
2. A single pass ion exchange system uses resin specifically manufactured to remove perchlorate.
3. A hydrogen peroxide injection system injects hydrogen peroxide in preparation for the UV reactors.
4. UV reactors treat for NDMA and 1, 4-Dioxane.
5. Water exiting the facility is chlorinated to provide a disinfectant residual in the water system.
6. Treated water then enters the water system and is delivered to your home.

**MORE INFORMATION**

LPVCWD's General Manager Greg Galindo at (626) 330-2126.
LaPuenteWater.com
epa.gov/pfas
waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/PFOA_PFOS
fda.gov/food/chemicals/and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas