

FAQ

Why would I want to test for PFAS?

As simple as it sounds, this question is loaded with context and has multiple answers. First, let's address the issue someone posing this question may have in the back of their mind. If testing finds PFAS in their water supply or wastewater system, they may be required to do something about it, and PFAS remediation is expensive. As such, might they be better off waiting for the EPA or their state to issue specific guidelines?

Certainly, it might seem easier to wait for a government agency to specify which of the thousands of PFAS compounds you should test for and to set regulatory limits. The challenge is that you may not be allowed to wait. There are a number of independent, non-profit environmental organizations regularly issuing stories about PFAS contamination and its harmful effects on human health across the internet. (Set a Google alert for "PFAS," and you'll see what we mean.)

We have a client in Florida, for example, that called us in because the local media had picked up news about possible PFAS contamination. The local residents started demanding answers, and the client felt compelled to test for PFAS contamination. At the very least, testing allowed them to work with facts as opposed to hyperbolic speculation amped up even further by the media.

Another reason to test for PFAS is that many states are starting to set limits. About half the states have set action levels or issued guidance so far. California, Connecticut, Colorado, Minnesota, New York, North Carolina, New Hampshire, New Jersey, and Vermont have all adopted legal limits, though which chemicals are included, and acceptable levels vary by state. Some restrictions are lower than those proposed by EPA. Illinois, Massachusetts, and Michigan have also proposed limits. Other states, like Ohio, Alabama, and Colorado have issued state-wide sampling orders and created PFAS action plans.

Of course, with state-set limits come lawsuits for contamination. Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, and Vermont all have open cases as of this moment. Cases in Minnesota and Alabama have already been settled. But even without state regulations, states can sue manufacturers for PFAS contamination, as is the case in Ohio and New Mexico.

You can download the on-demand version of our PFAS technical and regulatory webinar [here](#). To learn more about sampling for PFAS, download the Pace Analytical® [PFAS Sampling Guide](#). We cover a number of sampling best-practices that help ensure accurate test results. Finally, if you have questions or you're ready to begin testing, [contact our PFAS team](#) directly.

