



Trabuco Canyon Water District  
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[www.tcwd.ca.gov](http://www.tcwd.ca.gov)

## PFAS INFORMATION

### BACKGROUND

Trabuco Canyon Water District (TCWD) is committed to providing safe, reliable water to our customers and community 24/7. With PFAS substances in the news, TCWD staff created this fact sheet to answer frequently asked questions and ensure that our customers have up-to-date information.

### WHAT ARE PFAS?

- PFAS stands for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances.
- PFAS are a large group of manufactured chemicals that have been used in industry and consumer products around the world since the 1940s.
- There are thousands of PFAS chemicals. Some have been used and studied more widely than others.
- PFAS have properties that resist heat, oil, stains, grease and water.
- PFAS have been widely used in many everyday products, including:
  - Cleaning products
  - Nonstick cookware
  - Water-repellent clothing, including rain jackets, tents and umbrellas
  - Stain-resistant coatings used on upholstery, carpets and other fabrics
  - Personal care items, such as shampoo, dental floss, eye makeup and nail polish
  - Industrial products
  - Adhesives
  - Firefighting foam

### IS MY WATER SAFE TO DRINK?

Yes, the water that TCWD provides to our customers is safe to drink. Protecting our customers' health and safety is TCWD's top priority. Your drinking water meets or exceeds water quality standards by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and in California by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB).

#### TCWD Adheres to Strict State and Federal Regulations Based on Scientific Research

The U.S. has established stringent regulations and standards for tap water quality through the SDWA and in California through the SWRCB. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) continually monitors and regulates contaminants to ensure compliance with health-based guidelines. These standards are based on extensive scientific research and are continuously updated to reflect the latest findings.



## TCWD Rigorously Tests Your Water for Public Safety

- Every year, TCWD conducts hundreds of tests on your tap water to ensure it's clean and safe to drink and use at your home or business.
- Our staff continuously samples and monitors our systems, protecting your health, safety and peace of mind. We monitor our water system 24/7 to ensure its safety.
- TCWD does not overlie the Orange County Groundwater Basin, where PFAS has been detected and is being remediated by Orange County Water District, which manages the Basin. OCWD is a good source of information on PFAS in the water supply; visit [www.ocwd.com](http://www.ocwd.com).
- You can read more about your water in TCWD's annual Water Quality Report. You can view the report by visiting <https://www.tcwd.ca.gov/your-water/water-quality>.

## NEW EPA REGULATIONS

- In April 2024, the EPA issued new national drinking water standards targeting PFAS chemicals. For the first time, the EPA set a maximum contaminant level (MCL) at 4.0 parts per trillion for PFOA (perfluorooctanoic acid) and PFOS (perfluorooctane sulfonate), individually.
- Individual MCLs have been set at 10 parts per trillion for PFNA (perfluorononanoic acid), PFHxS (perfluorohexane sulfonic acid), PFBS (perfluorobutane sulfonic acid), and GenX chemicals.
- The EPA has introduced a regulatory mechanism known as the Hazard Index (HI), which is used to assess the risk from mixtures of four specific PFAS: PFNA, PFHxS, PFBS and GenX chemicals.
- The EPA advises residents to use certified in-home water filters to reduce PFAS exposure and will publish a guide detailing which filters are effective against PFAS.

## EPA STANDARDS IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE FOR WATER AGENCIES

- The new EPA standards will be phased in over a period of five years.
- Water agencies must complete initial monitoring and inform customers within three years.
- If a system exceeds the stipulated PFAS levels, it has two additional years to implement capital improvements to reduce these contaminants.

## MORE INFORMATION

TCWD customers are invited to contact us for more information.

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