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## Quality Water Matters



Brought to you by the City of Ann Arbor  
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Dear customers,

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently released new health advisory levels for four PFAS compounds, including PFOS (0.020 ng/L), PFOA (0.004 ng/L), GenX (10 ng/L), and PFBS (2,000 ng/L).

While regulations such as maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) can be enforced, health advisories cannot and are often established before regulation is developed by the EPA. Health advisories represent the lowest concentration that may cause health risks to an individual in a sensitive population with a lifetime of exposure. They also take into account other potential sources of exposure beyond drinking water (for example food and consumer products), which provides an additional layer of protection.

**The City of Ann Arbor drinking water remains safe to drink, and we will take this opportunity to explain how we know this is true.**

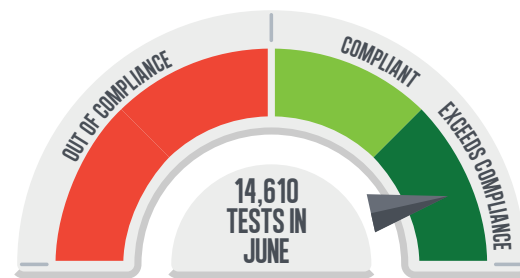
City of Ann Arbor monitors its source water and finished water regularly for PFAS, including all four of the compounds included in the new health advisory. PFOS, PFOA, and GenX are consistently not detectable in our finished drinking water and PFBS has never measured above Michigan's Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) which is even lower than the new health advisory level.

### Innovative Treatments

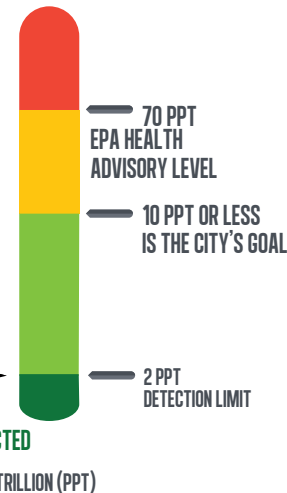
Several of the new health advisory levels are below the limit that any known method can quantify today, specifically for PFOS and PFOA. We are aware that these health advisory levels are lower than the regulated values from the State of Michigan and the levels that the best detection methods can achieve. We are still confident that our water is safe because the city has installed granular activated carbon (GAC) treatment for PFAS, one of the best technologies that exists today for removal of PFAS. We are confident in this technology because it has proven reliable for PFAS removal for many years in countless applications across the globe and is considered one of the best available technologies recommended for water utilities. Furthermore, we installed our own pilot filters, tested several GAC medias ourselves, and selected the GAC filter media that was most effective at removing PFAS.

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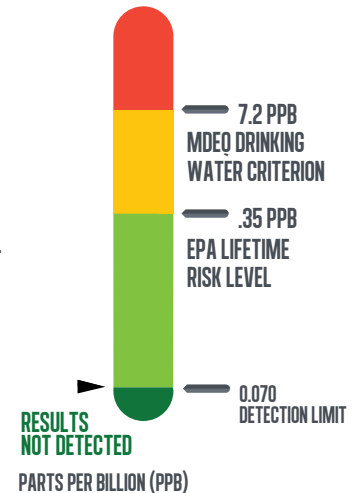
## MONTHLY WATER QUALITY DASHBOARD



### PFOS/PFOA



### 1,4-DIOXANE



## Addressing PFAS in the Huron River Watershed



### PFAS and the Huron River

Check out the Huron River Watershed Council's comprehensive website, which features a guide to "[Addressing PFAS in the Huron River Watershed.](#)"

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We continue to meet all PFAS regulations in our finished drinking water and are watching closely for regulatory developments as Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for several PFAS are expected to be released by EPA in the coming years. We are also monitoring our PFAS concentrations regularly with the best methods that exist, achieving the lowest possible detection limits, and posting that data for our customers on our website. We are watching for any new discoveries in the analytical technology for PFAS and will evaluate newer methods if they are developed and proven to be reliable.

### Research

Part of our approach to addressing emerging contaminants such as PFAS is to participate in research to ensure we are using the best available technology and tools to remove contaminants from our source waters. Our research has not only led us to select one of the best available technologies for PFAS removal for municipal water systems, but it also has enabled us to optimize replacement of our filter media. The GAC in our filters is regenerated every three years at an average cost of \$250,000 per year to ensure maximum PFAS removal. We will continue to participate in PFAS research projects to ensure you, our customers, have access to the best and most current solutions and technology.

### Other Sources

While we have been able to effectively treat our source waters to ensure the safety of the city's drinking water, the most effective tool to protect the city's water supply is to eliminate these harmful chemicals from our watershed. Unfortunately, the most significant sources of these chemicals come from entities outside of the city, such as upstream industry and wastewater treatment plants. The city and its local partners will continue to advocate for eliminating these contaminants at their source, so Ann Arbor water customers do not have to carry the financial burden of removing these chemicals from their water supply. For more information on PFAS and to view our PFAS monitoring data, check out our [PFAS information](#) webpage.

As always, please continue to contact us if you have questions about your drinking water at [water@a2gov.org](mailto:water@a2gov.org) or in the case of an emergency you can reach us by phone at 734.794.6426.

Sincerely,  
*Brian Steglitz*

Brian Steglitz, P.E., Drinking Water License F-1, Water Treatment Plant Manager, Ann Arbor resident



**Thank you** to the hundreds of event goers who came out June 10 to celebrate Green Fair and learn about ways Ann Arbor is creating a brighter, greener future. Huron the water drop enjoyed meeting and greeting event participants along with Ann Arbor Mayor Christopher Taylor.

## Water Conservation Tips During Summer Heat Waves

There are numerous ways you can easily conserve water this summer. Read the tips below to learn how.

### In the Bathroom

- Take shorter showers.
- Draw less water for baths, try only filling tub halfway.
- Don't use the toilet as a trash can: tissues, cotton balls, etc., should be thrown in the garbage, not flushed.
- Turn off water while brushing teeth.
- Fix a leaky faucet right away.

### In the Kitchen or Laundry

- Only run the dishwasher for full loads
- Don't let the faucet run to get a cold drink, keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator instead.

### Outdoors

- One inch of water every 10 days keeps lawns healthy and green. Water at cooler times like at night or early in the morning to prevent evaporation.
- Adjust water sprinklers so that they are reaching the garden and lawn rather than watering the driveway or sidewalk.
- Cut the grass at least 3 inches high to shade the roots, so that it will be more drought tolerant and won't need to be watered as often.
- When helping wash the car or your bicycle use a bucket and a hose with a nozzle so that water isn't running during soaping.
- Sweep the driveway and sidewalk with a broom rather than hosing it down.

