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# LONG ISLAND WATER NEWS

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## IS OUR WATER SAFE?

### Concern Grows Over Water Safety on Long Island

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#### PFAS Found in Drinking Water

What are PFAS? Some scientists call them ‘forever chemicals.’ They are highly toxic chemicals found in nonstick products, packaging, clothing, adhesives, waterproofing and firefighting foams. PFAS chemicals pollute water, do not break down, and remain in the environment and in people for decades. In fact, studies have shown that human exposure to PFAS is widespread; found in the blood of 99% of people in the United States.

What are the effects of PFAS? According to an article on the website of Citizens Campaign for the Environment, a non-profit environmental group, exposure has been linked to cancers, as well as immunity, fertility and learning problems, among other adverse impacts. The EPA has recently updated its guidance on the limits for two types of PFAS - PFOS and PFOA, reducing the amounts significantly. This indicates that there is essentially no safe level of exposure to these chemicals in drinking water.

#### What Can Be Done About Our Drinking Water?

The first line of defense when it comes to water contamination is



prevention. However, PFAS chemicals are already ubiquitous in our soil, air and drinking water. Long Island gets its water from an underground aquifer, and so its water is vulnerable to chemicals like PFAS. According to the CCE, more than 1,000,000 Long Islanders drink water that exceeds the EPA’s standards.

Can PFAS be filtered? The answer is Yes! These chemicals - along with other harmful substances like volatile organic compounds - can be filtered out of water. According to the New York State Department of Health website, water filtration units that use granulated activated carbon (GAC, also called charcoal filters) can be effective at removing PFAS chemicals from household water. The NY Department of Health’s website ([health.ny.gov](http://health.ny.gov)) contains valuable information about drinking water contamination and treatment options.

#### ACTIVATED CARBON FILTERS

These filters are used to remove unwanted tastes, odors, pesticides and chemicals such as VOCs and PFAS, including PFOA and PFOS, from your water. Whole house treatment, or point-of-entry treatment, is recommended so that all the water you use in your home is filtered.



**Speak To a Filtration Expert and See How We Can Help —**

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