

# Professional Installation of Under-Sink Filters for West Plains Private Well Owners and Group B Systems

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The Office of Drinking Water (ODW) is providing free installation of under-sink filters to homes that have tested their wells and found chemicals called [PFAS](#) above drinking water standards. We use whichever value is [lowest](#) between our State Action Level (SAL) or the EPA Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for PFOS, PFOA, PFHxS, PFBS, and PFNA for determining filter program eligibility.

These homes sent their test results to the Washington Department of Ecology. We are providing the filters through our [Alternative Drinking Water Program](#) (ADWP). We are working with other organizations, like the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and local health groups, such as Spokane Regional Health District, Eastern Washington University, and the [West Plains Water Coalition](#) to help people affected by PFAS in groundwater.

If you are eligible for a filter, you will be contacted by DOH and the professional installer, Fogle Pump and Supply, notifying you about this program and asking if you would like to schedule a filter installation.

## What type of filter will be professionally installed?

We are providing eligible homes with a [Pentair ChlorPlus Protect 10 system](#) along with one replacement cartridge. This under-sink filter and is National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) certified to reduce PFOA and PFOS (two types of PFAS).



The flow rate of the filter will be 1 gallon per minute to effectively remove PFOA and PFOS. We realize this impacts how you use your water, but the filter system needs the time to remove contaminants effectively. The system is not designed to reduce hard water, which doesn't affect your health.

Please remember, all filter systems require regular maintenance to be effective and safe. This includes replacing filter membranes or cartridges when directed in the filter instructions.

## How do I dispose of the used cartridges?

Please dispose of used PFAS filters at a local hazardous waste collection center. Visit Spokane County Solid Waste's [Household Hazardous Waste webpage](#), their [Disposal Transfer Stations webpage](#), or [Sunshine Disposal and Recycling](#). You can also call 509-477-6800 for more information. Future community collection events may be planned, and details will be shared with residents if the program becomes available.

## How do I request replacement cartridges for my under-sink filter?

Cartridges will filter up to 1,000 gallons or last 4 – 5 months before needing to be changed by the homeowner. Upon initial installation you will be provided with one replacement cartridge. You may be able to purchase additional replacement cartridges from Fogle Pump and Supply by calling 509-684-2569. Depending on future funding, the ADWP may be able to offer an additional cartridge for free. You will be notified if this is an option, or you may contact the ADWP at [odw-adwp@doh.wa.gov](mailto:odw-adwp@doh.wa.gov).

## How do I get follow up PFAS testing?

Anatek Labs will analyze water samples from selected installed filters to ensure effectiveness. Beginning in April 2025, the ADWP will be testing homes with a POU filter installed in December 2024 to validate the reduction of PFAS. Results from this sampling are expected to be available in May 2025 and will be reported to all residents.

# What are PFAS?

PFAS are a growing public health and environmental concern nationwide. PFAS chemicals are sometimes called “forever chemicals” because they do not break down easily in the environment, so they stay in the environment a long time.

PFAS chemicals can build up in our bodies over time when we are exposed to contaminated water, food, and consumer products. Higher levels of PFAS in your body could affect your immune system and make some vaccinations less effective. Exposure to PFAS could also increase your risk for health issues like kidney and testicular cancer, high cholesterol, high blood pressure during pregnancy, lower birthweights for your baby, and other reproductive issues.

Pregnant people, babies in the womb, and children under six years old may be more vulnerable to health impacts from PFAS exposure because these groups eat more food, drink more water, and breathe more per pound of bodyweight than the average person.

For more information on PFAS and to find health education materials, [visit our PFAS webpage](#).

## How do I reduce my exposure to PFAS?

There are six PFAS chemicals that have a [Washington state or federal safety standard](#). If your water test results show one of these PFAS is higher than our State Action Level (SAL) or the EPA Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), we recommend lowering your exposure by using a water filter that is certified to lower PFAS in the water you drink and cook with in your home, or by using bottled water. When we decrease our exposure to PFAS, our bodies can start clearing the chemicals from our system.

Not all water filters are effective at removing PFAS from your water. Only filter systems that have been independently tested and certified by a third party, like the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF), are proven to lower PFAS levels in drinking water. Some product descriptions for filters on general online retail sites make false claims about PFAS reduction.

Current certification standards for PFAS filters (as of June 2024) do not yet test if a filter will remove PFAS down to EPA’s new federal regulations on PFAS in drinking water. EPA is working with certification organizations like NSF to meet the new regulations.

## Where to go for More Information

- ◆ [ODW’s Alternative Drinking Water Program webpage](#) or email [odw-adwp@doh.wa.gov](mailto:odw-adwp@doh.wa.gov).
- ◆ Department of Ecology’s [PFAS in West Plains Private Wells webpage](#) or email [WestPlainsPFAS@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:WestPlainsPFAS@ecy.wa.gov).
- ◆ [Spokane Regional Health District’s Airway Heights PFAS Exposure Assessment website](#) or call 509-324-1560, extension 6.
- ◆ [West Plains Water Coalition website](#) or email [info@westplainswater.org](mailto:info@westplainswater.org).
- ◆ [Fogle Pump and Supply](#), 509-684-2569



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