

Understanding PFAS

At Seacoast Utility Authority, we are committed to delivering high-quality drinking water that meets or exceeds all state and federal standards. As part of our commitment to public health and transparency, we want to share important information about PFAS—an emerging topic in drinking water safety.

WHAT ARE PFAS?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of human-made chemicals used in a wide range of consumer and industrial products, including:

- Non-stick cookware
- Water-resistant clothing
- Cosmetics
- Food packaging
- Firefighting foams

PFAS are often called "**forever chemicals**" because they break down very slowly in the environment. Their widespread use and persistence mean that PFAS are now found in soil, water, and even some foods.

PFAS IN SOUTH FLORIDA’S RESOURCE WATERS

Like many communities across the country, Seacoast’s water system draws from groundwater sources where trace levels of PFAS may be present. We continuously monitor our water quality and work closely with state and federal agencies to ensure our water remains safe to drink.

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

To better understand PFAS and how they are being addressed nationwide, visit:

- [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\) – PFAS Information](#)
- [American Water Works Association \(AWWA\) – PFAS Resources](#)

WHY THIS MATTERS

These regulations represent the **first national enforceable limits** for PFAS in U.S. drinking water. They reflect growing concern over PFAS contamination and aim to:

- Protect public health.
- Standardize water quality monitoring across the country.
- Ensure utilities implement treatment solutions where needed.

PFAS STATEMENT

Seacoast’s **Eastern** Service includes 55,000 residences and businesses located east of the Beeline (710) Highway and north of Silver Beach Road in Lake Park. These customers receive drinking water processed at Seacoast’s Hood Road Water Treatment facility in Palm Beach Gardens. As published in Seacoast’s recently released Consumer Confidence Report (<https://www.sua.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/SUACCR2024.pdf>), sampling and testing confirm that drinking water treated at this facility contains no detectable PFAS. No further monitoring is required until 2027.

Seacoast’s Western Service Area includes 1,500 properties served in Avenir, Ancient Tree, Carleton Oaks, Osprey Isles, and Palm Beach Park of Commerce (<https://www.sua.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/SUACCRWEST2024.pdf>). These customers receive drinking water treated by Palm Beach County Water Utilities Department which has issued the following PFAS statement:

“We’re pleased to inform you that Palm Beach County Water Utilities drinking water is in full compliance with all state and federal regulations, with zero violations reported. Looking ahead to the Environmental Protection Agency’s new PFAS standards scheduled to take effect in 2031, PBCWUD’s three drinking water treatment plants are already in compliance, and work is underway to ensure the remaining two facilities meet the requirements well ahead of the deadline. Thank you for trusting us with your water quality.”

KEY REGULATORY DEVELOPMENTS

1. Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 5 (UCMR 5):

- **Initiated in February 2021** by the EPA.
- Focused on collecting nationwide data on **29 PFAS compounds** in public water systems.

2. Determination to Regulate PFAS:

- In **February 2021**, the EPA made a **final determination to regulate PFOA and PFOS**, two of the most studied and concerning PFAS.
- The agency also indicated it would continue evaluating other PFAS for potential regulation.

3. Proposed National Regulation:

- In **March 2023**, the EPA proposed to set **legally enforceable limits** for **six PFAS** in drinking water:
 - PFOA, PFOS, PFNA, PFHxS, PFBS, and GenX chemicals.

4. Final National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR):

- **Announced on April 10, 2024.**
- Establishes enforceable limits for the six PFAS compounds listed above.
- **Key deadlines:**
 - **Initial monitoring and testing by 2027.**
 - **Required treatment and compliance by 2031.**

