

TESTING FOR PFAS IN WATER

HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT TEST:

1 Make sure the test is designed for your **sample medium**.

The substance you are testing in.



Groundwater



Surface water



Treated tap water

2 Look for labs that have certifications.

Labs can get certified to perform tests for specific **analytes**. North Carolina and the U.S. EPA **do not certify labs for PFAS testing** because they do not regulate PFAS. However, there are some PFAS certifications you should look for when purchasing a test:

- PFAS testing certifications from states that offer it (e.g. California or Michigan)
- The Department of Defense Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (DoD ELAP) accreditation for PFAS
- The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 17025 accreditation for PFAS

The substance you are measuring for.

Ex: a specific chemical, like PFOA



3 Look for labs that use standard EPA testing methods for PFAS.

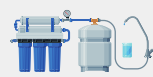
The EPA developed, validated, and published **three methods** for testing for unique PFAS in **finished drinking water** (from both surface water and groundwater):

- EPA Method 537
- EPA Method 537.1
- EPA Method 533

Water that has been treated for drinking purposes. This includes water treated by:



Utilities



At-home systems



Some labs provide modified versions of EPA PFAS methods for different sample medium or for specific PFAS not included in the original method. **According to the EPA, there is no standardized description of modified methods.**

LISTS OF CERTIFIED LABS:

- The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality lists certified labs for surface water and groundwater ([in-state](#) and [out-of-state](#)).
- The North Carolina Public Health Department lists [certified labs for finished drinking water](#).
- The State of Michigan lists [Michigan-certified labs for PFAS testing in finished drinking water](#).

!!! These lists include contact information

Call the lab to make sure they test for PFAS and find out which PFAS they test for. Also ask about what certifications the lab has.



PFAS tests from certified labs typically range from \$300-600. Uncertified labs are typically \$70-100. Uncertified tests do not have a guarantee of quality from a government or official organization.



When you receive your PFAS water test, make sure to follow the instructions provided to ensure an accurate test.



Content Sources:

- 1) NC DEQ. [Certified Lab Listings](#) (2021).
- 2) NCSLPH. [Certified Laboratory](#).
- 3) Michigan EGLE. [Laboratory Questions](#) (2021).
- 4) EPA. [EPA PFAS Drinking Water Laboratory Methods](#) (2020).