

# TESTING FOR PFAS IN WATER

## HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT TEST:

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

The material from which a sample is taken



Groundwater



Surface water



Treated tap water

### 2 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) and [one method](#) for groundwater and surface water:

#### Drinking Water

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

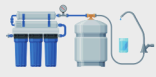
#### Groundwater & Surface Water

- EPA Method **1633A**

Drinking water can be produced from **groundwater and surface water**. This includes water treated by:



Utilities



At-home systems



Some labs provide modified versions of these methods that target PFAS beyond those included in the original EPA version. **To qualify for Chemours filtration, your water has to be analyzed by modified methods because most Chemours-specific PFAS aren't included in the EPA methods.**

### 3 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**. 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



Private well-owners in the Cape Fear River Basin may qualify for **free testing and filtration**. [Eligibility for testing](#) and the [Sampling Request Form](#) can be found online.

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## 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 Department of Health and Human Services [certified labs for finished drinking water](#).
- The State of Michigan lists [Michigan-certified labs for PFAS testing in finished drinking water](#).



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Contact info is included!

**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 that comes with a certified test.

 Make sure to carefully follow your sample collection and shipping instructions to ensure that your results are accurate.



#### Content Sources:

- 1) NC DEQ. [Certified Lab Listings](#) (2024).
- 2) NCSLPH. [Certified Laboratory](#).
- 3) Michigan EGLE. [Laboratories Offering Home Testing](#) (2024).
- 4) EPA. [EPA PFAS Drinking Water Laboratory Methods](#) (2024).
- 5) Chemours, [Residential Drinking Water Sampling Program](#) (2024)

Center for Environmental and Health Effects of PFAS