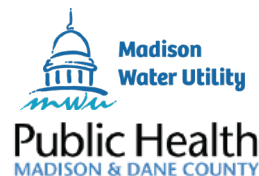


Your Guide to PFAS



What are PFAS¹?

A group of human-made chemicals that enter our environment from:



Non-stick cookware



Fast food packaging



Fire-fighting Foam containing PFAS



Stain and water resistant carpeting and fabrics



Industrial areas that use, dispose of, or manufacture PFAS

Why Are They Important to Me?



PFAS build up over time in humans, fish, and wildlife. They are linked to harmful health effects in people, particularly pregnant people and infants.



PFAS have been found in Madison's surface water and groundwater.



PFAS were found in fish tissue in Starkweather Creek, Lake Monona, and downstream lakes.

While PFAS were found in drinking water wells in Madison, they are **below** the federal standards and state health department recommended levels.

What Do I Need to Know?

- ◆ Our drinking water is safe.
- ◆ Government organizations are working to address the known pollution sources.
- ◆ The water in Starkweather Creek is safe to touch (not to consume).
- ◆ Follow the **Safe-Eating Guidelines** for fish from Madison area lakes (*see page 3*).

¹ Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances



What Actions Have The City / Water Utility Taken?

City of Madison and Madison Water Utility:

- ✓ Making sure Madison drinking water meets or exceeds all current and proposed safe drinking water guidelines
- ✓ Ongoing testing and reporting of PFAS levels in drinking water and increasing testing frequency to twice a year
- ✓ Shut off drinking water well #15 while treatment options are evaluated
- ✓ Ongoing coordination with Dane County and the Air National Guard on a plan to prevent PFAS contamination from entering Starkweather Creek via the storm sewers
- ✓ Eliminated PFAS from firefighting foam used by Madison Fire



Supported Public Health Madison Dane County in:

- ✓ Posting PFAS warning signs along Starkweather Creek and updated fish-eating guideline signs around Lake Monona in cooperation with the Air National Guard and the Airport
- ✓ Notifying people living near Starkweather Creek through letters and media announcements in partnership with the Air National Guard and the Airport
- ✓ Meeting with people in person who fish to tell them about the presence of PFAS in fish tissue and provide updated guidelines for safely eating fish

What Actions are Other Agencies Taking?

AGENCY	ACTIONS TAKEN / BEING TAKEN
Wisconsin Air National Guard's 115th Fighter Wing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Stopped using foam containing PFAS during firefighting training in 2015 (the FAA mandates that the foam be on hand for real emergencies). ● Making sure PFAS-contaminated soil/groundwater is handled safely during the on-going base construction upgrades. ● Starting the clean-up process by learning the extent of PFAS contamination around the airport through analysis of soil, surface water, and groundwater. ● Partnered with the Dane County Airport on a pilot study using bacteria to break down PFAS
Dane County and Dane County Regional Airport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Working with WI Air National Guard on the experimental use of bacteria to break down PFAS. ● Leading environmental investigation and mitigation work at the Dane County Regional Airport. ● Supporting Public Health Madison Dane County on community education and outreach efforts.
WI Department of Natural Resources (DNR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Providing oversight to the clean-up process of PFAS contamination around the airport. ● Sampled water and fish in Madison area creeks and lakes, and provided new guidelines for safely eating fish. ● Recommending standards for PFAS in drinking and surface waters.
WI Department of Health Services (DNR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Providing health guidance for PFAS levels in groundwater and drinking water.
Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Completed the first phase of PFAS testing to understand how PFAS move.
US Environmental Protection Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Announced a plan to create a federal drinking water standard for PFAS by summer of 2023.

What Actions Can I Take?

- Use fewer everyday items that contain PFAS
- Follow the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Safe-Eating Guidelines for fish in the Madison area (*page 3*).

List of PFAS-free Items:

www.pfascentral.org



Guidance for Safely Eating Fish in the Madison Area

(Covering PFAS, Mercury, and PCB)*

People of child-bearing age and ability (typically up to age 50) and children under age 15 may safely eat:

	Lakes Monona, Waubesa, Kegonsa, and Starkweather & Wingra Creeks	Lake Wingra & Lake Mendota
1 Meal Per Week	bluegill, bullheads, inland trout, pumpkinseed, yellow perch	bluegill and sunfish, bullheads, crappies, inland trout, yellow perch
And		
1 Meal Per Month	carp, catfish, crappies, largemouth bass, northern pike, walleye, all other species and sizes	bass, carp, catfish, pike, walleye, all other species and sizes
Do Not Eat	muskies	muskies

All other adults (not of child-bearing age or ability) age 15+ may safely eat:

	Lakes Monona, Waubesa, Kegonsa, and Starkweather & Wingra Creeks	Lake Wingra & Lake Mendota
Unrestricted	bullheads, inland trout	bluegill, sunfish, bullheads, crappies, inland trout, yellow perch
1 Meal Per Week	bluegill, catfish, pumpkinseed, yellow perch, all other species and sizes	bass, catfish, pike, walleye, all other species and sizes
And		
1 Meal Per Month	carp**, crappies, largemouth bass, muskies, northern pike, walleye	carp, muskies

*From WI DNR as of January 17, 2022

**1 meal/week for water bodies other than Lake Monona

