

PFOS and PFAS Compounds

The City of Highwood is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all our residents. We understand that clean and safe drinking water is essential for a healthy community. We want you to know about PFOS and PFAS compounds and the measures we are taking to monitor and maintain the quality of your drinking water.

In 2021, the City of Highwood conducted comprehensive testing of our drinking water for 18 PFOS and PFAS contaminants. We are pleased to announce that none of these contaminants were found in the water supply, demonstrating the high quality and safety of our water at that time.

However, we also recognize that information regarding these substances is evolving rapidly. There have been other utilities that use our same source water (Lake Michigan, that have detected these compounds in small amounts.

PFOS and PFAS are a group of human-made chemicals that have been used in a variety of industrial, commercial, and consumer products. As part of our commitment to continuous improvement, the City of Highwood will be participating in the UCMR (Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule) program in 2025 to retest our water supply for any potential changes in contaminant levels.

It is important to note that PFOS and PFAS compounds are not unique to our water source, and their presence is a concern that communities across the country are facing. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is actively researching and updating guidelines to ensure safe drinking water standards. We will continue to stay informed about the latest developments and best practices to safeguard your water.

For more information regarding PFOS and PFAS see the following ILEPA site:

[ILEPA Per-and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances](#)

Here are some key points for residents to keep in mind:

1. 2021 Water Test Results: No PFOS or PFAS contaminants were detected in the City of Highwood's drinking water during the 2021 testing.

2. Ongoing Monitoring: The City of Highwood is dedicated to closely monitoring our water quality to ensure it meets or exceeds all safety standards.
3. Changing Information: As research on PFOS and PFAS compounds progresses, guidelines and recommendations may change. We will stay up-to-date with the latest information and adjust our practices accordingly.
4. 2025 UCMR Program: In 2025, we will participate in the UCMR program to conduct further testing for PFOS and PFAS compounds to maintain the highest water quality possible.
5. Other nearby water utilities (using lake Michigan source water) have detected some of these compounds, but so far levels have been below the very recent Federal EPA MCL recommendations established for 6 of these compounds.

We encourage residents to stay informed and be proactive in protecting the environment and water resources. Should you have any questions or concerns about your water quality, please do not hesitate to contact the City of Highwood's Water Department at 847.432.3730 or City Hall at 847.433.1924