

# ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2023



*Presented By*  
**The City of Petaluma  
Public Works & Utilities**

## Our Commitment

We are pleased to present to you this year's annual water quality report. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2023. Included are details about your sources of water, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water and providing you with this information because informed customers are our best allies.

## Community Participation

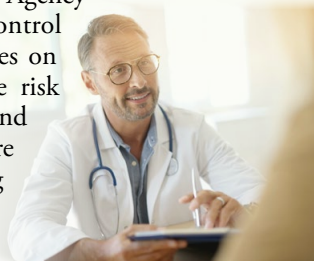
For matters affecting your Public Works and Utilities Department, the Petaluma City Council meets every first and third Monday of the month at Petaluma City Hall. For information on agenda items relating to the Public Works and Utilities Department or other city water matters, please call the city clerk at (707) 778-4360.

## Lead in Home Plumbing

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. We are responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but we cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to two minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. (If you do so, you may wish to collect the flushed water and reuse it for another beneficial purpose, such as watering plants.) If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or [epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://epa.gov/safewater/lead).

## Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or [water.epa.gov/drink/hotline](http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline).



## What's a Cross-Connection?

Cross-connections that contaminate drinking water distribution lines are a major concern. A cross-connection is formed at any point where a drinking water line connects to equipment (boilers), systems containing chemicals (air-conditioning systems, fire sprinkler systems, irrigation systems), or water sources of questionable quality. Cross-connection contamination can occur when the pressure in the equipment or system is greater than the pressure inside the drinking water line (backpressure). Contamination can also occur when the pressure in the drinking water line drops due to fairly routine occurrences (main breaks, heavy water demand), causing contaminants to be sucked out from the equipment and into the drinking water line (backsiphonage).

Outside water taps and garden hoses tend to be the most common sources of cross-connection contamination at home. The garden hose creates a hazard when submerged in a swimming pool or attached to a chemical sprayer for weed killing. Garden hoses that are left lying on the ground may be contaminated by fertilizers, cesspools, or garden chemicals. Improperly installed valves in your toilet could also be a source of cross-connection contamination.

Community water supplies are continuously jeopardized by cross-connections unless appropriate valves, known as backflow prevention devices, are installed and maintained. We have surveyed industrial, commercial, and institutional facilities in the service area to make sure that potential cross-connections are identified and eliminated or protected by a backflow preventer. We also inspect and test backflow preventers to make sure that they provide maximum protection. For more information on backflow prevention, contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

## Think before You Flush!

Flushing unused or expired medicines can be harmful to your drinking water. Properly disposing of unused or expired medication helps protect you and the environment. Keep medications out of our waterways by disposing responsibly. To find a convenient drop-off location near you, please visit [bit.ly/3leRyXy](http://bit.ly/3leRyXy).

## QUESTIONS?

If you have any comments, questions, or suggestions, please contact Public Works and Utilities Supervisor Joel McIntyre at (707) 776-3698 or [JMcIntyre@cityofpetaluma.org](mailto:JMcIntyre@cityofpetaluma.org), or Utility System Operator Jason Archer at (707) 776-3653 or [jarcher@cityofpetaluma.org](mailto:jarcher@cityofpetaluma.org).



## Substances That Could Be in Water

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations and California law also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

Microbial Contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife;

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, that can be naturally occurring or can result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming;

Pesticides and Herbicides that may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses;

Organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and which can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural applications, and septic systems;

Radioactive Contaminants that can be naturally occurring or can be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

## Source Water Assessment

An assessment of the drinking water sources for the City of Petaluma was completed in March 2003. The sources for the City of Petaluma are considered most vulnerable to the following activities: sewer collection systems, airport maintenance and fueling areas, known contaminant plumes, and underground storage tanks. The sources for Sonoma County Water Agency are considered most vulnerable to wastewater disposal and mining operations.

No contaminants associated with these activities have been detected in either of the water supplies. Copies of the completed assessments are available at the Department of Health Services, 50 D Street, Suite 200, Santa Rosa. You may request a summary of the assessments by contacting the Department of Health Services, Office of Drinking Water, at (707) 576-2145.

## Where Does My Water Come From?

Petaluma purchases drinking water from Sonoma County Water Agency that originates from three reservoirs: Lake Pillsbury, Lake Mendocino, and Lake Sonoma. Releases from these reservoirs into Russian River replenish the aquifers beneath the river. The water supply is collected 80 feet below the sand beds adjacent to Russian River. Natural filtration gives this water its excellent quality; it requires no additional filtration. The only treatment administered is the addition of chlorine to keep the water pure in the delivery pipeline and a small amount of sodium hydroxide to raise the pH to minimize corrosion of household pipes.

Sonoma County Water Agency supplements its Russian River supply with groundwater collected from three production wells along the Cotati Aqueduct in the Santa Rosa plain. For more information about the Russian River water system, please contact Sonoma County Water Agency at 404 Aviation Boulevard, Santa Rosa, CA 95403, or (707) 526-5370, or through [sonomawater.org](http://sonomawater.org).

The City of Petaluma maintains a ready supply of local groundwater drawn from wells more than 400 feet deep. The water is naturally filtered by the sand and gravel it passes through in the aquifers. Chlorine is added to keep the water pure during delivery and in the city distribution system.

## Benefits of Chlorination

Disinfection, a chemical process used to control disease-causing microorganisms by killing or inactivating them, is unquestionably the most important step in drinking water treatment. By far, the most common method of disinfection in North America is chlorination.

Before communities began routinely treating drinking water with chlorine (starting with Chicago and Jersey City in 1908), cholera, typhoid fever, dysentery, and hepatitis A killed thousands of U.S. residents annually. Drinking water chlorination and filtration have helped to virtually eliminate these diseases in the U.S. Significant strides in public health are directly linked to the adoption of drinking water chlorination. In fact, the filtration of drinking water and the use of chlorine are probably the most significant public health advancements in human history.

How chlorination works:

Potent Germicide Reduction of many disease-causing microorganisms in drinking water to almost immeasurable levels.

Taste and Odor Reduction of many disagreeable tastes and odors from foul-smelling algae secretions, sulfides, and decaying vegetation.

Biological Growth Elimination of slime bacteria, molds, and algae that commonly grow in water supply reservoirs, on the walls of water mains, and in storage tanks.

Chemical Removal of hydrogen sulfide (which has a rotten egg odor), ammonia, and other nitrogenous compounds that have unpleasant tastes and hinder disinfection. It also helps to remove iron and manganese from raw water.

## Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule, and the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we only show those substances that were detected in our water (a complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request). Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels.

The state recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

We participated in the fifth stage of the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) program by performing additional tests on our drinking water. UCMR5 sampling benefits the environment and public health by providing the U.S. EPA with data on the occurrence of contaminants suspected to be in drinking water to determine if it needs to introduce new regulatory standards to improve drinking water quality. Unregulated contaminant monitoring data is available to the public, so please feel free to contact us if you are interested in obtaining that information. If you would like more information on the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule, please call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

### REGULATED SUBSTANCES

				Petaluma Public Works & Utilities	Sonoma County Water Agency				
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Aluminum (ppm)	2023	1	0.6	0.0053	ND–0.053	<0.050	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes
Arsenic (ppb)	2023	10	0.004	3.29	ND–13	<2.0 <sup>1</sup>	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2023	1	2	0.076	ND–0.19	<1 <sup>1</sup>	NA	No	Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium, Total (ppb)	2023	50	(100)	ND	NA	<10 <sup>1</sup>	NA	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills and chrome plating; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2023	2.0	1	0.10	ND–0.20	0.12 <sup>1</sup>	<0.10–0.14 <sup>1</sup>	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Gross Alpha Particle Activity (pCi/L)	2020	15	(0)	1.32 <sup>2</sup>	ND–3.11 <sup>2</sup>	0.44 <sup>3,4</sup>	-0.364–1.52 <sup>3,4</sup>	No	Erosion of natural deposits
HAA5 [sum of 5 haloacetic acids]–Stage 2 (ppb)	2023	60	NA	7.10	6.9–7.3	6.64	ND–20.02	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate [as nitrate] (ppm)	2022	45	45	0.29	ND–1.4	<0.40	NA	No	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228 (pCi/L)	2018	5	0.019	ND	NA	0.755	ND–1.18	No	Erosion of natural deposits
TTHMs [total trihalomethanes]–Stage 2 (ppb)	2023	80	NA	26.33	25.04–27.62	0.122 <sup>1</sup>	0.048–0.229 <sup>1</sup>	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection

### Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2023	1.3	0.3	0.073	0/30	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	2023	15	0.2	2.4	0/30	No	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits

## SECONDARY SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	Petaluma Public Works & Utilities		Sonoma County Water Agency		VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
				AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH		
Color (units)	2023	15	NS	ND	NA	8	4–20	No	Naturally occurring organic materials
Foaming Agents [MBAS] (ppb)	2023	500	NS	ND	NA	<0.050	NA	No	Municipal and industrial waste discharges
Iron (ppb)	2023	300	NS	183	ND–660	<100 <sup>5</sup>	<100–590 <sup>5</sup>	No	Leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Manganese (ppb)	2023	50	NS	41.00	ND–150	<20	<20–88	No	Leaching from natural deposits
Specific Conductance (µS/cm)	2023	1,600	NS	640	480–820	260	240–280	No	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	2021	500	NS	22.39	7.90–33.00	12.4 <sup>4</sup>	0.76–18 <sup>4</sup>	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2021	1,000	NS	347	220–470	145.83 <sup>4</sup>	110–180 <sup>4</sup>	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	2021	5	NS	2.46	0.26–10	0.38 <sup>4</sup>	<0.10–0.80 <sup>4</sup>	No	Soil runoff

## UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES <sup>6</sup>

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	Petaluma Public Works & Utilities		Sonoma County Water Agency		TYPICAL SOURCE
		AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	
Hexafluoropropylene Oxide Dimer Acid [HFPO-DA; GenX] <sup>7</sup> (ppb)	2023	0.00072	<0.00064–0.00077	0.00072	<0.00064–0.00077	NA
Perfluorobutanesulfonic Acid [PFBS] <sup>7</sup> (ppb)	2023	0.00046	<0.00037–0.00065	0.00046	<0.00037–0.00065	NA
Perfluorohexanesulfonic Acid [PFHxS] <sup>7</sup> (ppb)	2023	0.00065	<0.00055–0.00071	0.00065	<0.00055–0.00077	NA
Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid [PFOS] <sup>7</sup> (ppb)	2023	0.00078	<0.00071–0.00083	0.00078	<0.00071–0.00083	NA
Perfluorooctanoic Acid [PFOA] <sup>7</sup> (ppb)	2023	0.00061	<0.00042–0.00088	0.00061	<0.00042 – 0.00088	NA
Sodium (ppm)	2021	64.00	34.00–140.00	19.13 <sup>8</sup>	9.1–53.0 <sup>8</sup>	Naturally occurring
Total Hardness (ppm)	2021	175.20	72.00–307.00	102.92 <sup>8</sup>	43.00–135.00 <sup>8</sup>	Naturally occurring

<sup>1</sup> Sampled in 2022.

<sup>2</sup> Last round of testing was conducted in 2020. Testing is conducted every nine years.

<sup>3</sup> Last round of testing was conducted in 2023. Testing is conducted every nine years.

<sup>4</sup> Sampled in 2021.

<sup>5</sup> Sampled in 2021.

<sup>6</sup> Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps U.S. EPA and the SWRCB determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the contaminants need to be regulated.

<sup>7</sup> UCMR5 monitoring.

<sup>8</sup> Sampled on August 23, 2023.

## Definitions

**90th %ile:** The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper detections.

**AL (Regulatory Action Level):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

**MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs (SMCLs) are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

**MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs are set by the U.S. EPA.

**MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

**NA:** Not applicable.

**ND (Not detected):** Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

**NS:** No standard.

**NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units):** Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**pCi/L (picocuries per liter):** A measure of radioactivity.

**PDWS (Primary Drinking Water Standard):** MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health, along with their monitoring and reporting requirements and water treatment requirements.

**PHG (Public Health Goal):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set by the California EPA.

**ppb (parts per billion):** One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

**ppm (parts per million):** One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

**µS/cm (microsiemens per centimeter):** A unit expressing the amount of electrical conductivity of a solution.

## Count on Us

Delivering high-quality drinking water to our customers involves far more than just pushing water through pipes. Water treatment is a complex, time-consuming process. Because tap water is highly regulated by state and federal laws, water treatment plant and system operators must be licensed and are required to commit to long-term, on-the-job training before becoming fully qualified. Our licensed water professionals have a basic understanding of a wide range of subjects, including mathematics, biology, chemistry, and physics. Some of the tasks they complete on a regular basis include:

- Operating and maintaining equipment to purify and clarify water.
- Monitoring and inspecting machinery, meters, gauges, and operating conditions.
- Conducting tests and inspections on water and evaluating the results.
- Maintaining optimal water chemistry.
- Applying data to formulas that determine treatment requirements, flow levels, and concentration levels.
- Documenting and reporting test results and system operations to regulatory agencies.
- Serving our community through customer support, education, and outreach.

So the next time you turn on your faucet, think of the skilled professionals who stand behind each drop.

## Protecting Your Water

Bacteria are a natural and important part of our world. There are around 40 trillion bacteria living in each of us; without them, we would not be able to live healthy lives. Coliform bacteria are common in the environment and generally not harmful themselves. The presence of this bacterial form in drinking water is a concern, however, because it indicates that the water may be contaminated with other organisms that can cause disease.



In 2016 the U.S. EPA passed a regulation called the Revised Total Coliform Rule, which requires water systems to take additional steps to ensure the integrity of the drinking water distribution system by monitoring for the presence of bacteria like total coliform and *E. coli*. The rule requires more stringent standards than the previous regulation, and it requires water systems that may be vulnerable to contamination to have procedures in place that will minimize the incidence of contamination. Water systems that exceed a specified frequency of total coliform occurrences are required to conduct an assessment and correct any problems quickly. The U.S. EPA anticipates greater public health protection under this regulation due to its more preventive approach to identifying and fixing problems that may affect public health.

Though we are fortunate in having the highest-quality drinking water, our goal is to eliminate all potential pathways of contamination into our distribution system, and this requirement helps us accomplish that goal.

## Q&A

### What type of container is best for storing water?

Consumer Reports has consistently advised that glass or bisphenol A (BPA)-free plastics such as polyethylene are the safest choices. To be on the safe side, do not use any container with markings on the recycle symbol showing 7PC (that's code for BPA). You could also consider using stainless steel or aluminum with BPA-free liners.

### How much emergency water should I keep?

Typically, one gallon per person per day is recommended. For a family of four, that would be 12 gallons for three days. Humans can survive without food for one month but can only survive one week without water.

### How long can I store drinking water?

The disinfectant in drinking water will eventually dissipate, even in a closed container. If that container housed bacteria prior to filling up with the tap water, the bacteria may continue to grow once the disinfectant has dissipated. Some experts believe that water can be stored up to six months before needing to be replaced. Refrigeration will help slow the bacterial growth.

### How long does it take a water supplier to produce one glass of treated drinking water?

It can take up to 45 minutes to produce a single glass of drinking water.

### How many community water systems are there in the U.S.?

About 53,000 public water systems across the United States process 34 billion gallons of water per day for home and commercial use. Eighty-five percent of the population is served by these systems.

### Which household activity wastes the most water?

Most people would say the majority of water use comes from showering or washing dishes; however, toilet flushing is by far the largest single use of water in a home (accounting for 40 percent of total water use). Toilets use about 4 to 6 gallons per flush, so consider an ultra-low-flow (ULF) toilet, which requires only 1.5 gallons.



## Safeguard Your Drinking Water

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides – they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain it to reduce leaching to water sources, or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use U.S. EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with others in your neighborhood. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Dump No Waste – Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

## Water Main Flushing

Distribution mains (pipes) convey water to homes, businesses, and hydrants in your neighborhood. The water entering distribution mains is of very high quality; however, water quality can deteriorate in areas of the distribution mains over time. Water main flushing is the process of cleaning the interior of water distribution mains by sending a rapid flow of water through them.

Flushing maintains water quality in several ways. For example, flushing removes sediments like iron and manganese. Although iron and manganese do not pose health concerns, they can affect the taste, clarity, and color of the water. Additionally, sediments can shield microorganisms from the disinfecting power of chlorine, contributing to the growth of microorganisms within distribution mains. Flushing helps remove stale water and ensures the presence of fresh water with sufficient dissolved oxygen and disinfectant levels and an acceptable taste and smell.

During flushing operations in your neighborhood, some short-term deterioration of water quality, though uncommon, is possible. You should avoid tap water for household uses at that time. If you do use the tap, allow your cold water to run for a few minutes at full velocity before use and avoid using hot water to prevent sediment accumulation in your hot water tank. Please contact us if you have any questions or if you would like more information on our water main flushing schedule.

## Tap vs. Bottled

Thanks in part to aggressive marketing, the bottled water industry has successfully convinced us all that water purchased in bottles is a healthier alternative to tap water. However, according to a four-year study conducted by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), bottled water is not necessarily cleaner or safer than most tap water. In fact, about 40 percent of bottled water is actually just tap water, according to government estimates.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is responsible for regulating bottled water, but these rules allow for less rigorous testing and purity standards than those required by the U.S. EPA for community tap water. For instance, the high mineral content of some bottled waters makes them unsuitable for babies and young children. Further, the FDA completely exempts bottled water that's packaged and sold within the same state, which accounts for about 70 percent of all bottled water sold in the United States.

People spend 10,000 times more per gallon for bottled water than they typically do for tap water. If you get your recommended eight glasses a day from bottled water, you could spend up to \$1,400 annually. The same amount of tap water would cost about 49 cents. Even if you installed a filter device on your tap, your annual expenditure would be far less than what you'd pay for bottled water. For a detailed discussion on the NRDC study results, visit [goo.gl/Jxb6xG](https://goo.gl/Jxb6xG).

## What Are PFAS?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of manufactured chemicals used worldwide since the 1950s to make fluoropolymer coatings and products that resist heat, oil, stains, grease, and water. During production and use, PFAS can migrate into the soil, water, and air. Most PFAS do not break down; they remain in the environment, ultimately finding their way into drinking water. Because of their widespread use and their persistence in the environment, PFAS are found all over the world at low levels. Some PFAS can build up in people and animals with repeated exposure over time.

The most commonly studied PFAS are perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS). PFOA and PFOS have been phased out of production and use in the United States, but other countries may still manufacture and use them.

Some products that may contain PFAS include:

- Some grease-resistant paper, fast food containers/wrappers, microwave popcorn bags, pizza boxes
- Nonstick cookware
- Stain-resistant coatings used on carpets, upholstery, and other fabrics
- Water-resistant clothing
- Personal care products (shampoo, dental floss) and cosmetics (nail polish, eye makeup)
- Cleaning products
- Paints, varnishes, and sealants

Even though recent efforts to remove PFAS have reduced the likelihood of exposure, some products may still contain them. If you have questions or concerns about products you use in your home, contact the Consumer Product Safety Commission at (800) 638-2772. For a more detailed discussion on PFAS, please visit [bit.ly/3Z5AMm8](https://bit.ly/3Z5AMm8).

## Water Conservation Tips

You can play a role in conserving water and save yourself money in the process by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using and looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Here are a few tips:

Automatic dishwashers use four to six gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.

Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.

Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.

Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from an invisible toilet leak. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.

Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water-using appliances. Then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.



## PFAS Regulations

The City of Petaluma has not been required to test its groundwater wells for polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS or forever chemicals), but has completed the UCMR5 sampling events of the Distribution System during 2023. Under the April 10, 2024, EPA PFAS Regulations, the City of Petaluma may be subject to complete initial monitoring by 2027, and report these results in its annual Consumer Confidence Report. Depending on those results, the City of Petaluma would be required to conduct testing either twice per year or once every three years.

The City of Petaluma receives the majority of our water from Sonoma Water Agency which has monitored PFAS compounds for the past 5 years and is to begin quarterly monitoring in April 2024. Sonoma Water has not found concentrations in the water delivered above the current state response and notification levels nor have they found concentrations above the maximum contaminant levels set by the EPA on April 10, 2024. For more information on PFAS visit <https://www.epa.gov/pfas>.

## BY THE NUMBERS



**5.1 TRILLION**

The dollar value needed to keep water, wastewater, and stormwater systems in good repair.



**12 THOUSAND**

The average amount in gallons of water used to produce one megawatt-hour of electricity.



**2**

How often in minutes a water main breaks.



**47.5 TRILLION**

The amount in gallons of water used to meet U.S. electric power needs in 2020.



**1.7 TRILLION**

The gallons of drinking water lost each year to faulty, aging, or leaky pipes.



**33**

The percentage of water sector employees who will be eligible to retire by 2033.