

Drinking Water Filters to Reduce PFAS

Which filter option should I use for my drinking water?

Treatment systems for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) reduction comprise a carbon-based filter, ion exchange resin or a carbon-based filter plus reverse osmosis (RO). The treatment capacity can vary depending on the type and size of the treatment system and they can range anywhere from a simple gravity flow filter in a water pitcher to an under the counter RO filtration system with a separate dispensing tap to a whole house treatment system. As to be expected, both the initial cost, along with the cost and complexity of operation, goes up as you increase in capacity. See below for some examples of various treatment system types.

Water Pitcher Filtration System

These are small carbon based filter systems that operate by gravity – filter cartridges may last 3-4 months.



Faucet Mount Water Filtration System

These are small carbon based filter systems that attach directly to the end of a kitchen faucet – filter cartridges last around three months.



Whole House Treatment

These use larger carbon based filters and/or ion exchange resin – treatment system typically serviced annually and are normally not done by the homeowner.



Under-the-Counter Reverse Osmosis Treatment System with Separate Fill Spout

These use a carbon based pre filter followed by RO filtration – carbon filter replacement approximately every six months with RO membrane replacement about every 12 months.



How can I verify treatment performance of the selected filtration system?

Make sure the selected system has been third party certified in meeting current NSF/ANSI standards for the reduction in PFOA and PFOS. Two such certifying organizations are the [Water Quality Association](https://www.wqa.com/) and the [National Sanitation Foundation](https://www.nsf.org/). For assistance, email pfasinfo@des.sc.gov.

Note: The NSF/ANSI certification of the filters use the health advisory limit of 70 parts per trillion (ppt) for PFOS and PFOA. NSF/ANSI certification to MCLs has begun but not yet been finalized.

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