

# Testing Your Drinking Water for PFAS



## Certified Laboratories

The Washtenaw County Health Department recommends that residents who wish to test their drinking water for PFAS use a certified laboratory. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD), and the [National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference \(NELAC\)](#) all certify laboratories for testing PFAS.

Three of the EPA certified laboratories have provided information on test kits available to homeowners. Those laboratories are:

- **South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority in New Haven, CT** is an EPA certified lab for Method 537 and offers test kits for PFAS. The 6-analyte kit is \$125 and the 24-analyte kit is \$250. Kit prices include shipping. The kits include a cooler with ice packs and gloves. Kits can be ordered by calling (203) 401-6743.
- **Anatek Labs in Moscow, Idaho** offers a 6-analyte test kit for \$225. Cost includes shipping. Kit can be ordered by calling (208) 883-2839.
- **Northern Lake Service in Crandon, Wisconsin** offers a 12-analyte PFAS kits for \$350. Cost does not include return shipping (must be shipped via Next Day Air service). Kit can be ordered by calling (715) 478-2777.

The EPA's Office of Water requires that **Method 537** be used to analyze samples for PFAS, as it was shown to be a reliable method for testing PFAS in drinking water samples. Modified versions of this method are available, however they have not been evaluated by the EPA's Office of Water. More information on Method 537 is available on the [EPA's website](#).

The list of EPA Approved Laboratories offering EPA Method 537 analysis for PFAS is available [here](#).

You can find NELAC accredited laboratories [here](#), and Department of Defense accredited laboratories [here](#).

## Tips for taking samples

**PFAS are present in numerous consumer products.** Residents sampling their water should be aware that they can accidentally contaminate their water sample during sample collection. For this reason, samplers should wear heavy duty nitrile gloves (provided in sampling kit) and make sure not to touch anything other than the sample bottles during sample collection. Samplers are also advised to avoid wearing lotion, deodorant, cosmetics, sunscreen, waterproof clothing, stain-resistant clothing, and clothing washed in fabric softener when collecting their sample. Other persons near the sample collection area should do the same or move out of the sampling area. PFAS Sampling Guidance is available [from the State of Michigan](#).

Learn more about PFAS and public water system testing at [www.washtenaw.org/PFAS](http://www.washtenaw.org/PFAS).