



DID YOU KNOW?

**PFAS**  
HAS BEEN FOUND IN  
**WESTBOROUGH'S**  
DRINKING WATER



**WPI**

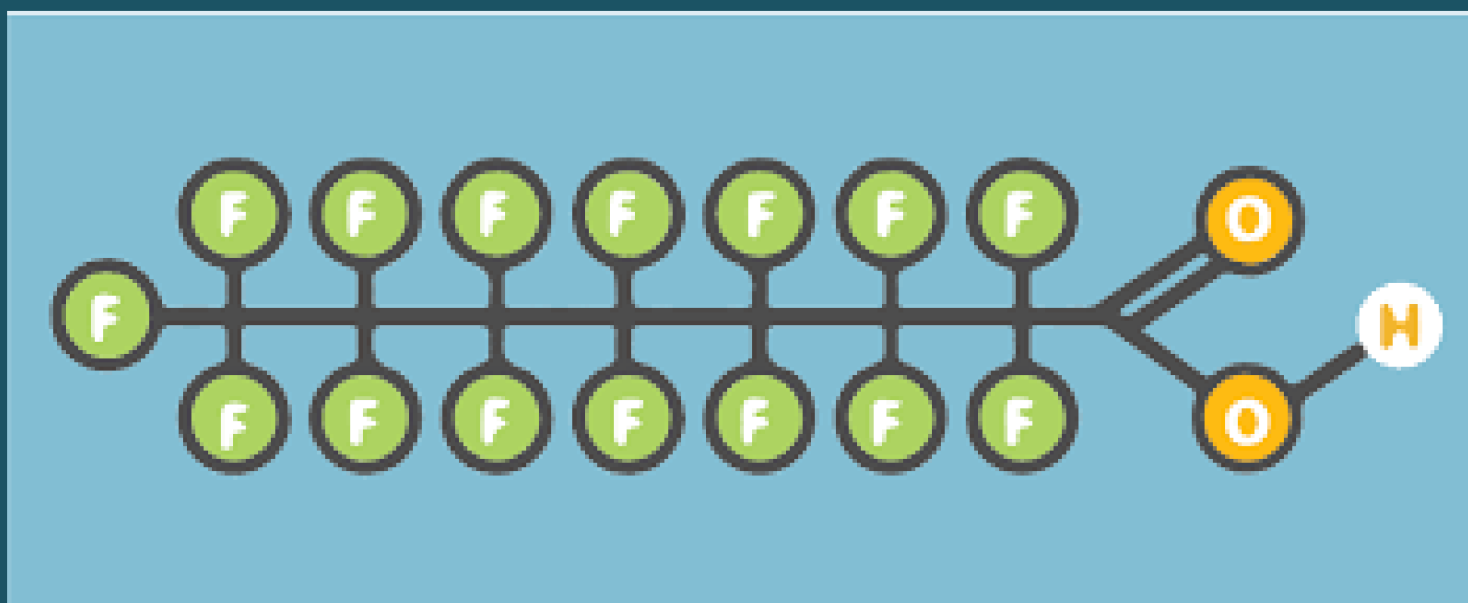


# DID YOU KNOW?

## PFAS

### (Per- and Poly-fluoroalkyl Substances)

- Are a group of man-made chemicals used in many common products like cosmetics, food wrappers, waterproof fabrics & more;
- Are linked to multiple adverse health effects;
- Are hard to remove from the environment;
- Are commonly referred to as “forever chemicals”



# DID YOU KNOW?

## PFAS can affect your health

PFAS exposure has been linked to many adverse health effects, such as:

- Cancer
- Decrease in reproductive health
- Decrease in early childhood development
- Weakened immune system
- Kidney disease
- And many others

# DID YOU KNOW?

**PFAS is in many common products**



# DID YOU KNOW?

## PFAS is regulated

MassDEP



**State Regulation:** Massachusetts regulates certain PFAS. Public water systems are required to test for certain PFAS and add treatment if they exceed state standards.



**Federal Regulation:** In 2024, The US EPA set even stricter standards for PFAS in drinking water. Public water systems will be required to meet these lower standards.

# DID YOU KNOW?

## Westborough is addressing PFAS in its Drinking Water

The Town must add treatment for PFAS to its public water system to meet state and federal standards.

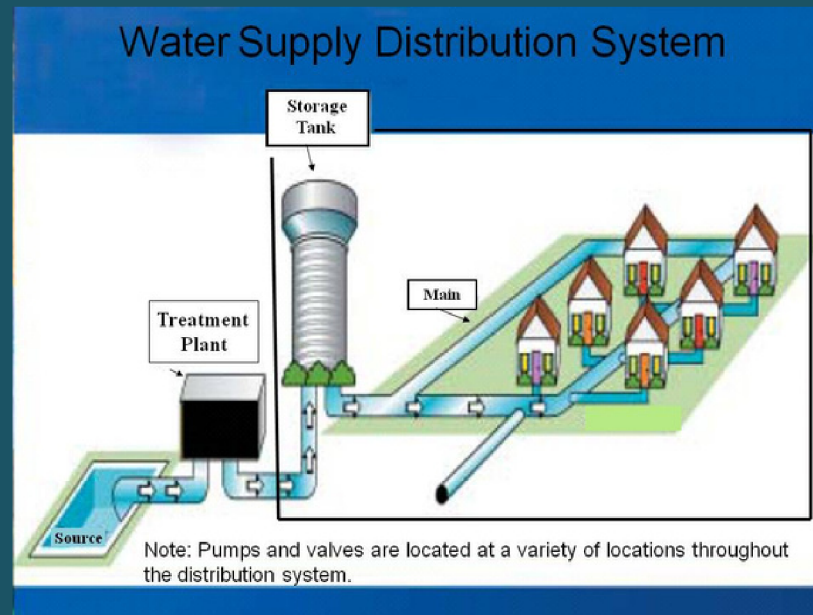


The town has selected Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) filtration to remove PFAS from its drinking water.



# DID YOU KNOW?

## How clean water reaches your home



- Groundwater is pumped from underground wells to the Town's treatment plant
- Water is treated for various contaminants, including iron and manganese, at the treatment plant
- Water is sampled and tested to ensure it meets state and federal drinking water standards before it enters the distribution system
- Carbon filtration will be added to Westborough's treatment process to remove PFAS



# Learn more about PFAS

For more information about PFAS levels in Westborough  
Visit <https://www.westborough-ma.gov/>

Visit MADEP website to learn more about state regulations:  
<https://www.mass.gov/drinking-water-health-safety>

Visit EPA Website: <https://www.epa.gov/pfas>



# ABOUT THE AUTHORS

WPI students created these infographics as part of an Interactive Qualifying Project (IQP), in collaboration with the Water Resource Outreach Center (WROC) and MassDEP.

