



Dear Valued Customer,

Ridgewood Water is one of the estimated 6,600 public drinking water systems in the U.S. impacted by per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). We are also proud to be a leader in the treatment of PFAS.

By the end of 2026, all regulated PFAS compounds will be nondetectable in our treated water, exceeding the EPA standard of 4 parts per trillion. In addition, our system-wide project will be completed three years ahead of the EPA's 2029 deadline.

You may be asking:

Why is it taking so long? The short answer is that it takes time to consolidate 31 treatment facilities spread across four towns into 12 PFAS Treatment Facilities. Our entire system needed to be redesigned to effectively address PFAS.

What exactly is being done? Ridgewood Water proactively commissioned a PFAS Treatment Master Plan study in January 2019.

- In September 2019, our first PFAS Treatment Facility was up and running.
- The second facility went online in August 2022.
- An additional six are under construction, four of which are on target to come online in 2025.
- The remaining four are on schedule to be completed by the end of 2026.

What are you doing in the meantime? We are working to deliver water with the lowest levels of PFAS and are purchasing additional supply from Veolia Water, Hawthorne Water and the Passaic Valley Water Commission, all of which are compliant with New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection PFAS regulations. *Please conserve water. When you conserve, we are able to deliver water with lower levels of PFAS.*

Ridgewood Water also is taking legal action against the companies that caused the contamination in a serious attempt to recover a portion of the cost to build these PFAS Treatment Facilities.

If you have any questions about our water system, please don't hesitate to reach out at 201-670-5520 or cswater@ridgewoodnj.net.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Richard Calbi', written in a cursive style.

Richard Calbi
Director of Ridgewood Water

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Keith Kazmark', written in a cursive style.

Keith Kazmark
Village Manager

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Ridgewood Water Has Levels of Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) and Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid (PFOS) Above a Drinking Water Standard

Ridgewood Water was Unable to Bring Our Water into Compliance with PFOA and PFOS Drinking Water Standards Within One Year

As our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation. For more information, please contact Customer Service at (201) 670-5520 or cswater@ridgewoodnj.net.

You were previously notified that our water system is in violation of the New Jersey drinking water PFOA and PFOS standards or maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) at the points of entry listed below on this public notice. The most recent public notice and update regarding this matter are also available at <https://water.ridgewoodnj.net/pfas-resources/>.

New Jersey adopted standards, as a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), for PFOA and PFOS in 2020 and monitoring began in 2021. The MCL is based on a running annual average (RAA), in which the four most recent quarters of monitoring data are averaged.

- MCL for PFOA is 14 parts per trillion (ppt)
- MCL for PFOS is 13 parts per trillion (ppt)

As of the 4th quarter 2024 sampling period, ending on December 31st, 2024, we have exceeded the MCL for PFOA at twenty-two (22) points of entry (POE) with an RAA ranging between 19-35 ppt and the MCL for PFOS at four (4) points of entry with an RAA ranging between 13-17 ppt.

Our water system is required to take any action necessary to bring the water into compliance with the applicable MCL within one-year from the initial violation. Our water system was not able to remediate the PFOA and PFOS MCL violations at twenty-two (22) points by the one-year deadline.

Point of Entry (POE) (Treatment Plants)	POE Common Name	PFOA	PFOS
		RAA 4Q2024 (ppt)	RAA 4Q2024 (ppt)
TP004012	Wortendyke	20	
TP005023	Cedar Hill	26	
TP010030	Ames	26	
TP014038	Van Houten	21	
TP019049	Midland	19	
TP020051	Waldo	19	
TP025062	Main	23	
TP028068	Prospect	27	
TP002003	Eder	27	
TP044099	Salem	19	
TP001001	Meer	33	17
TP018047	Weisch	25	
TP024060	Lafayette	29	
TP030072	Stevens	24	
TP032076	E. Ridgewood	22	
TP033079	Irving	24	13
TP035083	West End	25	
TP023057	Lakeview	28	16
TP043097	E. Saddle River	24	
TP021053	College	26	
TP016042	Farview	35	
TP022055	Russell	27	13

What is being done?

The system is being redesigned to consolidate the Treatment Plants through 12 new PFAS Treatment Facilities.

Construction Progress

- 2 facilities are completed and online
- 6 additional facilities are under construction
- 4 remaining facilities are under final engineering design and permitting.

All 12 PFAS Treatment Facilities are scheduled for completion by the end of 2026.

For more details on the construction progress and the PFAS Master Treatment Plan, go to <https://water.ridgewoodnj.net/pfas-resources/>.

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What is PFOA?

Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) is a member of the group of chemicals called per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), used as a processing aid in the manufacture of fluoropolymers used in nonstick cookware and other products, as well as other commercial and industrial uses, based on its resistance to harsh chemicals and high temperatures.

What is PFOS?

Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) is a member of the group of chemicals called per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), that are man-made and used in industrial and commercial applications. PFOS is used in metal plating and finishing as well as in various commercial products.

PFOA and PFOS have also been used in aqueous film-forming foams for firefighting and training, and they are found in consumer products such as stain-resistant coatings for upholstery and carpets, water-resistant outdoor clothing, and greaseproof food packaging. Major sources of PFOA and PFOS in drinking water include discharge from industrial facilities where they were made or used, and the release of aqueous film-forming foam. Although the use of PFOS has decreased substantially, contamination is expected to continue indefinitely because it is extremely persistent in the environment and is soluble and mobile in water.

What does this mean?

FOR PFOA: **People who drink water containing PFOA in excess of the MCL over time could experience problems with their blood serum cholesterol levels, liver, kidney, immune system, or, in males, the reproductive system. Drinking water containing PFOA in excess of the MCL over time may also increase the risk of testicular and kidney cancer. For females, drinking water containing PFOA in excess of the MCL over time may cause developmental delays in a fetus and/or an infant. Some of these developmental effects may persist through childhood.*

FOR PFOS: **People who drink water containing PFOS in excess of the MCL over time could experience problems with their immune system, kidney, liver, or endocrine system. For females, drinking water containing PFOS in excess of the MCL over time may cause developmental effects and problems with the immune system, liver, or endocrine system in a fetus and/or an infant. Some of these developmental effects may persist through childhood.*

** For specific health information see https://www.nj.gov/health/ceohs/documents/pfas_drinking%20water.pdf and <https://www.nj.gov/dep/pfas/index.html>.*

What should I do?

- 1) If you have specific health concerns, a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at higher risk than other individuals and should seek advice from your health care providers about drinking this water.
- 2) The New Jersey Department of Health advises that infant formula and other beverages for infants, such as juice, should be prepared with bottled water when PFOA and/or PFOS is elevated in drinking water.
- 3) Pregnant, nursing, and women considering having children may choose to use bottled water for drinking and cooking to reduce exposure to PFOA and/or PFOS.
- 4) Other people may also choose to use bottled water for drinking and cooking to reduce exposure to PFOA and/or PFOS or a home water filter that is certified to reduce levels of PFOA and/or PFOS. Home water treatment devices are available that can reduce levels of PFOA and/or PFOS. For more specific information regarding the effectiveness of home water filters for reducing PFOA and/or PFOS, visit the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) International website, <http://www.nsf.org/>.
- 5) Boiling your water will not remove PFOA or PFOS.

For more information, see <https://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/pfas/>.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.