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What are PFAS?

PFAS, or per- and polyfluorallkyl substances, are some 14,000 man-made chemicals that have been used in many products since the 1940s to repel water, grease, and heat. These chemicals are persistent in the environment and pose potential health risks.

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Where are PFAS Found?

PFAS are deeply embedded in our daily lives. Many products and devices contain PFAS. They are in cosmetics, personal care products, pesticides, non-stick cookware, medical products, small appliances, semi-conductors, and firefighting foam and equipment.

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Why is Everyone Talking About PFAS?

Some PFAS are linked to health problems. Exposure to certain levels of PFAS is linked to reproductive and developmental effects, increased risk of some cancers, reduced resistance to fight infections, interference with the body's natural hormones, and increased cholesterol levels and/or risk of obesity.

Source: "Our Current Understanding of the Human Health and Environmental Risks of PFAS," EPA

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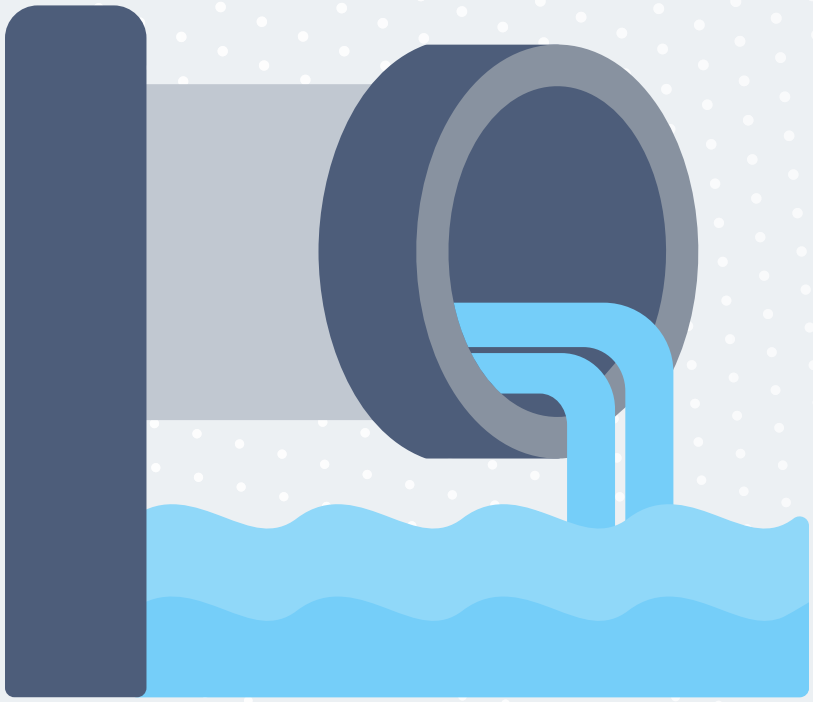

Why are PFAS in My Water?

PFAS are already in the water that flows to water and sewer utilities. They enter water in many ways, including through our bodily functions, from discarded products, and from industrial pollution. PFAS earned the name “forever chemicals” for good reason. They employ a particularly strong chemical bond that can’t easily be degraded. They persist in the environment and in our bodies.

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Are Water and Sewer Utilities Helping with the PFAS Problem?

Yes. New Jersey drinking water utilities treat water for PFAS when concentrations exceed safe levels. Sewer utilities work with NJDEP, tracking PFAS back to industrial, commercial, and residential discharges using state-of-the-art technology. When necessary, they require pretreatment or other modifications to reduce PFAS coming to the sewer plant.

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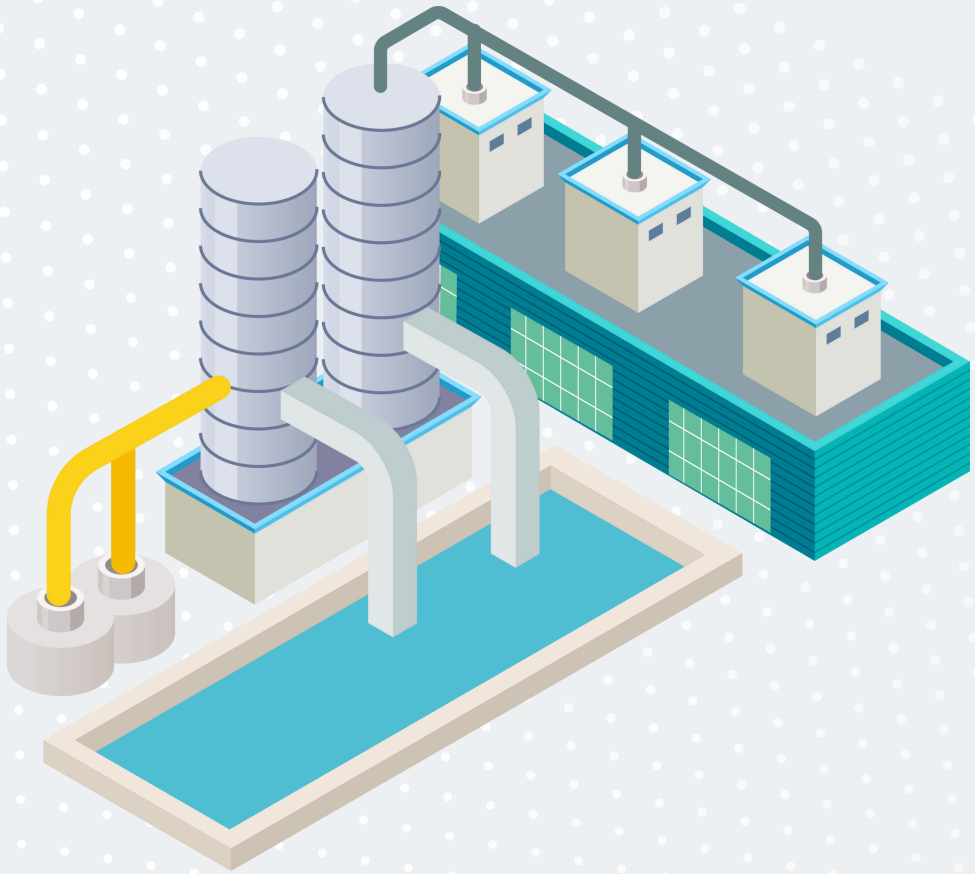

Does Removing PFAS from Water Eliminate the Problem Entirely?

Not really. Adequately addressing the unprecedented nature of PFAS pollution still has a long way to go. We need to reduce and even ban PFAS where possible. We need commercially viable ways to remove PFAS from water and eventually even to destroy PFAS. Fortunately, some of this work is underway in New Jersey and elsewhere.

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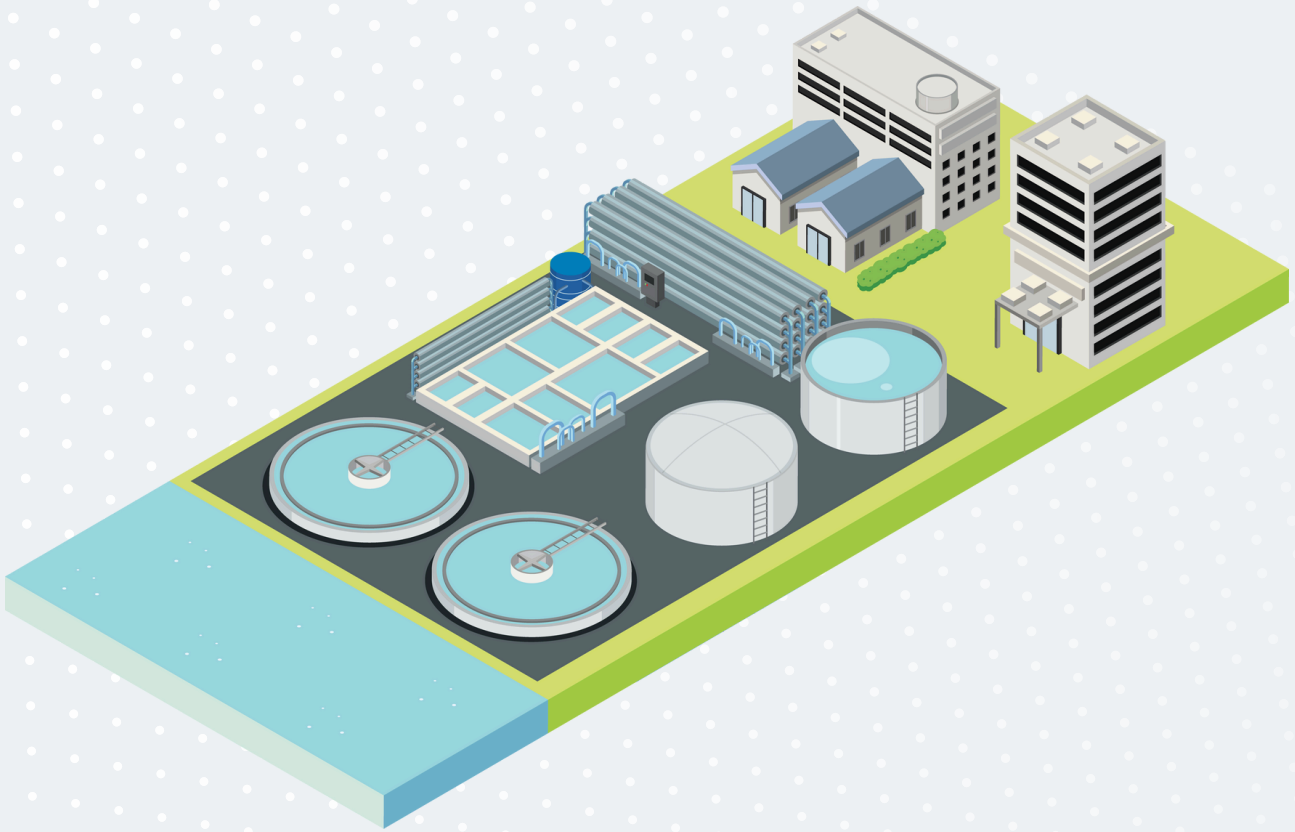

Why are Utilities Concerned About Mitigating or Banning PFAS?

Fixing PFAs should be a shared burden. Water and sewer customers alone should not have to carry the cost. Water is the necessary starting point to address widespread PFAS pollution, but it should not be the end point. A much more comprehensive approach involving safer alternatives, mitigation, and imposing bans is essential.

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