



# PFAS levels in water have been underestimated

Slide by Neil Goalby. Available from [rsc.li/4bvxlLw](https://rsc.li/4bvxlLw)

Companies use per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in various products, such as cosmetics, food packaging and firefighting foams. A new study has measured PFAS levels in 45,000 samples of surface and groundwater from around the world. The study showed that many samples contained levels of PFAS that were above the national drinking water standards where they were collected. Some water treatment plants will remove PFAS found in source water, by using activated carbon, but not all plants can remove the chemicals. Their effects on our health and the environment are uncertain.



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*Firefighters cover a blaze with PFAS-containing foam*

## Questions

1. What name is given to water that is safe to drink?
2. Suggest how PFAS get into water sources.
3. Suggest what further research needs to be done.