



EPA Finalizes PFAS Rules

On April 10, 2024, EPA announced the final National Primary Drinking Water Regulation for 6 per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). The regulation establishes legally enforceable maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for PFOA, PFOS, PFHxS, PFNA, and HFPO-DA individually, and (2) a Hazard Index MCL for PFAS mixtures containing at least two or more of PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA, and PFBS. The Hazard Index MCL will protect communities from the additive health effects of multiple PFAS when they occur together. EPA expects that over many years the final rule will prevent PFAS exposure in drinking water for approximately 100 million people, prevent thousands of deaths, and reduce tens of thousands of serious PFAS-attributable illnesses.

The final rule requires the following:

- Community water systems (CWS) and non-transient non-community water systems (NTNCWS) must monitor for these PFAS. Initial monitoring must be completed within 3 years of publication of the rule, or by 2027, followed by ongoing compliance monitoring.
- Starting in 2027, community water systems must provide the public with information on the levels of these PFAS in their drinking water.
- CWS and NTNCWS have 5 years (by 2029) to implement solutions that reduce these PFAS if monitoring shows that drinking water levels exceed the MCLs.
- Starting in 2029, public notification is required by CWS and NTNCWS that have PFAS in drinking water which violates one or more of these MCLs.

The [PFAS rule homepage](#) contains fact sheets, commonly asked questions, a general presentation, and a pre-publication copy of the rule. The rule will be published in the Federal Register in a few weeks.

EPA is holding information sessions on [April 30](#). Registration is required. The webinar recordings will be available following the events.

The implementation for the rule will begin. If you have questions, please contact us at [1-800-455-6115](#) or [www.epa.gov/region8](#).



THIS MONTH

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Training Resource: EPA Small Drinking Water Systems Webinar Series: Technical Assistance for Lead

EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) and Office of Water (OW), in collaboration with the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA), host this free webinar series to communicate the latest information on solutions for challenges facing small drinking water systems. The series topics vary each month and are primarily designed for state, territory, and tribal staff responsible for drinking water regulations compliance and treatment technologies permitting. Others may also benefit from the webinars, including water system operators, technical assistance providers, NGOs, local government personnel, academia, and private sector.

Webinars are typically held on the last Tuesday of the month from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. ET with an optional Q&A session from 3:00 to 3:30 p.m. ET. For more information. Please see the [Small Drinking Water Systems Webinar Series website](#).

Webinar Details

- Date: Tuesday, May 21, 2024
- Time: 2:00-3:30 p.m. Eastern Time
- Registration: Registration information will be available at the [Small Drinking Water Systems Webinar Series website at a later date](#).

Resource: Housekeeping 101: Keep Your System Clean and Safe

This article was written by Brian Little for the Nation Rural Water Association

On a scale of 1 through 10, 10 being the best, how well would you rate the housekeeping score in your system? If your score is not upwards of 7 or better, it is time for some improvement.

Sometimes the most overlooked part of maintenance is just simple housekeeping that can improve operations at your system in several different ways. We all know finding the time to complete these duties may be a bit challenging, but understanding the importance may motivate a better housekeeping management schedule to ensure we can fit these tasks into our busy schedules.

It starts with a solid plan that all employees should be part of, fitting the right people in for each task, and allowing the team to take ownership of their part of the plan. These fundamental elements will compose a good structure that will allow for a successful, routine housekeeping maintenance plan.

What are some of the general housekeeping tasks we are faced with at our wastewater treatment plants and systems? We can break these housekeeping tasks down into daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, annual, and seasonal tasks. Our common housekeeping tasks are usually done on a daily and weekly basis to maintain a clean and safe work environment, but other housekeeping maintenance is necessary throughout the year to keep our systems functioning properly. Let's break this down into each category and look at some possible tasks for each category that you may use:

Daily

- Sweeping/mopping of main floors.
- Laboratory cleaning/organization.
- Organizing materials to keep clean, clutter-free, and neat work spaces.
- Dusting or wiping down equipment to clean.
- Restocking supplies.

Weekly

- Mowing/trimming of plant grounds, pump stations, or other public work areas.
- Checking lighting and replacing any non-working light bulbs.
- Removing garbage from cans.
- Cleaning bathrooms.
- Cleaning kitchen areas.
- Cleaning inside/outside of vehicles.

Monthly

- Cleaning windows.
- Deep-cleaning main areas.
- Cleaning equipment filters.

Quarterly

- Deep cleaning of non-main areas.
- Inspection/cleaning of equipment in non-main areas.
- Cleaning/replacing equipment filters.

Annually

- Painting piping, equipment, walls, etc.
- Tank maintenance.
- Annual deep-cleaning of all areas in the plant and system (group effort).

Seasonally

- Winter maintenance (plowing, de-icing, shoveling).
- Summer maintenance (mowing, trimming, brush/tree removal).
- Outdoor painting in summer.
- Tank maintenance.

These are just some possible tasks that a facility may be faced with, and understanding that each system is different, there may be other housekeeping tasks that you may have to add. Some areas may need more attention than others, while other tasks may not be needed as frequently. It will take everyone involved to compose a plan, determine the frequency, and implement each task to complete. Areas that are more visible to the public will need more attention as well as areas that are occupied daily.

Why is housekeeping so important?

Keeping a clean work environment will protect the safety of all employees and visitors who are in our systems. The grounds of our systems should look neatly kept without overgrown vegetation and with clear evidence of routine maintenance. Overgrown vegetation can attract unwanted rodents/pests that could affect our systems. Health and safety can be jeopardized with the attraction of these rodents/pests. Our fences and gates used for security could become breached from holes and burrows from animals. Banking and shoring in certain areas of our plants could become weakened from these animal burrows. When someone is entering the plant, we should want their first impression to be positive on what kind of job is being done at the facility.

As our systems age, deterioration can overtake equipment. With proper housekeeping and routine maintenance, we can slow the effects of this deterioration and keep our systems looking fresh. Equipment will last to its expected life or longer with minimal downtime that can be detrimental to our systems. Simple housekeeping maintenance will prolong the life of our facility and its equipment, which will in turn be cost-effective when planning for the future. When equipment is taken care of, we can own the reliability of fewer call-outs, giving our system more integrity.

First impressions of visitors, the public, state agencies, and board members will enhance the team's integrity factor. Coming to work every day should be a rewarding feeling, so taking pride in what we do and how we maintain our equipment will enhance this perception. Evaluations of our systems may be scheduled or may not be scheduled.

Ensuring the routine tasks are always taken care of will prevent any faults from surprise visits that we were unaware of from visitors, state agencies, or board members. The overall looks/maintenance of a system could be a determining factor for situational evaluations or audits that are taking place at the facility.

Organization is a key component of good housekeeping. Maintenance and inventory areas need organization to keep tools and equipment easily accessible when needed. Shelving with labels will help generate a better clutter-free area, allowing operators to find the tools and parts more easily. Laboratory areas need to be very clean along with the organization of extra supplies. Cleanliness in the laboratory is a must to prevent any contamination of in-house testing and samples. The lab is a daily use area that is sometimes occupied by multiple people; therefore, this area is a main area that must be attended to daily. Inventory supplies and all lab equipment must be in perfect working order, clean, and ready for the next routine lab analysis.

Who would have thought that simple housekeeping could play such a huge factor in the operation of a wastewater system? Having that sense of ownership and treating your facility as if it were your own will provide a good structure to accomplish these routine tasks. The ideas talked about in this article are just a few suggestions that should be part of a routine housekeeping maintenance program. Your system will have its own unique attributes with different routine tasks that fit into the maintenance schedule. Some of these tasks may be routine enough that planning is not necessary, but some will require future oversight to ensure they are being completed. However the mold fits for your system, remember the importance of listing the tasks, assigning the tasks, and fitting the tasks into the frequency chart.

[Read the Full Article Here](#)

Resource: Community Change Grant Program

EPA's new Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants program (Community Change Grants) will invest approximately \$2 billion in Inflation Reduction Act funds in environmental and climate justice activities to benefit disadvantaged communities through projects that reduce pollution, increase community climate resilience, and build community capacity to respond to environmental and climate justice challenges. These place-based investments will be focused on community-driven initiatives to be responsive to community and stakeholder input. EPA expects most awards will be between \$10-20 million for multi-faceted projects addressing a range of pollution, climate change, and other priority issues. For more information and a list of eligible activities, [please click here](#). This grant is now open and the deadline to apply is November 2024. To learn more about the grant, view a recording of the December informational [webinar here](#). Free Technical Assistance to help in preparing a grant application is available and can be accessed [here](#).

[Click here for more information](#)
[Deadline to apply is November 21, 2024](#)

Resource: WaterTA

All communities deserve access to clean, reliable water. Yet too many communities across America face challenges in providing safe drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater services to their residents. The [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#) presents an unprecedented opportunity to address water infrastructure needs by providing \$50 billion in new funding – the [largest federal investment in water in the history of our nation](#). New and existing EPA [Water Technical Assistance \(WaterTA\) programs](#) will be utilized to support effective implementation of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

What is WaterTA?

EPA's free Water Technical Assistance (WaterTA) supports communities to identify water challenges, develop plans, build capacity, and develop application materials to access water infrastructure funding. To implement WaterTA, EPA collaborates with states, tribes, territories, community partners, and other key stakeholders. Learn more about [WaterTA services and programs](#).

Help for Your Community

EPA WaterTA aims to assist communities with applications for federal funding, quality infrastructure, and reliable water services. If your community is facing water infrastructure challenges and could benefit from support, we encourage you to learn more about [who can receive WaterTA and the challenges WaterTA can help your community address](#) then complete and submit a webform request by clicking on the link below:

[Request Water Technical Assistance for Your Community](#)

Resource: Lead Service Line Inventories (LSLI) Monthly Office Hours – Ask EPA

Jill Minter, Lead Service Line (LSL) Coordinator, and Erica Wenzel, Lead Copper Rule and LSL Specialist, will be holding virtual Lead Service Line Inventories monthly office hours, from 10am to 11am Central Time, and at the same time on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. The next office hours meeting is May 15th. This will be a time for operators and managers to ask EPA any questions on developing lead service line inventories as well as hear questions from other operators. An email will be sent out each month to tribal public water system contacts with the LSLI Office Hours Teams meeting link, which is also copied below.

If interest is high, we can schedule additional LSLI Office Hours. We are thinking that holding monthly LSLI Office Hours will be an efficient way to answer questions and share information that may be common to multiple systems. The forum should also provide a good opportunity to learn from other operators who are also developing inventories and facing similar challenges. Do consider attending to listen in even if you do not have questions to ask that month. While we have scheduled monthly Office Hours, please know that water system operators and managers are always welcome to contact EPA with questions by email or by phone as well.

Monthly Meeting Info (3rd Wednesday of every month):

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 216 909 557 054

Passcode: e2Efid

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 202-991-0477,,904938593#](#) United States, Washington DC

Phone Conference ID: 904 938 593#

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)

Upcoming Regulatory Deadlines

Date	Event	Location
Last day of every calendar month	Last day to collect monthly total coliform samples	Sites approved on your RTCR sample plan
10 th of every month	Last day for EPA to receive total coliform and DBP samples collected during the previous month	N/A

Key EPA Contacts

Region 8 Tribal Team

Motaz Zarooq – Denver, CO Office – 303-312-6780 – zarooq.motaz@epa.gov

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Megan Falk – Helena, MT Office – 406-457-5041 – falk.megan@epa.gov

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Other R8 Drinking Water Employee Contact Information Can be Found [Here](#).

This newsletter can be viewed online by visiting: <https://www.epa.gov/region8-waterops/epa-region-8-tribal-drinking-water-monthly-newsletter>.

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