



# Understanding Your Lab Report

## OVERVIEW

Lab reports can contain a lot of information. However, the page with your sample results is the most important for understanding if you have PFAS in your drinking water. Your report also includes a cover page, a glossary, and information related to the quality and handling of your sample.

## EXAMPLE REPORT

1 Analyte	2 Result	Qualifier	4 RL	5 MDL	Unit
Perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA)	1.0	J	1.8	0.45	ng/L
Perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA)	3 ND		1.8	0.45	ng/L
<b>Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)</b>	1.8		1.8	0.53	ng/L
Perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA)	ND		1.8	0.45	ng/L
Perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA)	ND		1.8	0.45	ng/L
Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS)	2.6		1.8	0.45	ng/L
Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS)	0.86	J	1.8	0.45	ng/L

**1. Analyte:** The chemical that was tested for by the laboratory.

**2. Result:** The level of the chemical detected in nanograms/Liter (ng/L). PFOA and PFOS results are compared with New York State Drinking Water Standards to determine eligibility for water treatment rebate.

**3. ND, Non-Detect:** The chemical was below the level that could be measured by the laboratory equipment.

**4. RL, Reporting Limit:** The level that the laboratory equipment can reliably detect.

**5. MDL, Method Detection Limit:** The lowest level that the laboratory equipment could detect.

## QUALITY CONTROL

Testing laboratories use practices to ensure results are accurate and complete. Your test results are labeled **Client Sample Results** and include a sample identification number and client identification number. Quality control data, labeled **QC Sample Results**, are laboratory control samples and do not impact your actual results. Laboratory control samples ensures high quality data. The analysis was performed using EPA Method 537.1, Version 2.

## DEFINITIONS

**%Rec** is the percent of the control sample detected by the equipment. 100% means the equipment was functioning perfectly.

**%Limits or Rec Limits** is a range from the lowest to the highest acceptable %Rec value for your result to be accurate.

**Surrogate** - A compound added to the sample to make sure it could be measured.

**Qualifiers** - Codes on your laboratory report that describe the quality of the results.

## QUALIFIERS

Qualifier	Definition
B	The chemical was detected in a blank sample and the sample result may be biased high. A blank sample is a type of control sample known not to contain PFAS.
U	The chemical was not detected at a level greater than the method detection limit, or is non-detect.
J	The chemical was detected at a level greater than the method detection limit but less than the reporting limit.
E or D	An <b>E</b> qualifier means the chemical was detected at a level exceeding the instrument calibration curve, so the sample was rerun. A <b>D</b> qualifier means a diluted sample was run to bring the chemical within the calibration curve.

## INTERPRETATION

Your results are reported in nanograms per liter (ng/L). This is equal to parts per trillion (ppt) e.g. 1 ng/L = 1 ppt. New York State's Drinking Water Standards for PFOA and PFOS are 10ng/L.

If you are in Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Suffolk, Ulster, or Westchester County and your test results are 10 ng/L or higher for PFOA or PFOS, you are eligible to receive a mitigation rebate to install water treatment or connect to a public water supply. Please see your attached results letter and visit [health.ny.gov/PrivateWellPFAS](https://health.ny.gov/PrivateWellPFAS) for more information.

**Learn more at [health.ny.gov/PrivateWellPFAS](https://health.ny.gov/PrivateWellPFAS)**

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