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## Forever Chemicals & Microplastics in Drinking Water - Risks, Responsibilities & Best-Practice Filtration



**1. What are PFAS?**

Known colloquially as 'Forever Chemicals', per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of synthetic chemicals that have been used in various consumer products since the 1950s.

**2. What are microplastics and where do they originate?**

Defined as small plastic pieces less than 5mm in length, microplastics originate from plastics breakdown, synthetic textiles, industrial sources, and even household plumbing systems.

**3. What are the potential public health ramifications of PFAS exposure?**

PFAS exposure has been linked to developmental effects, hormonal disruption, immune system effects, and certain cancers.

**4. Which types of in-house water filters are most effective when it comes to removing PFAS?**

Reverse osmosis (RO) and activated carbon (granular or block) filters are the most effective in-home methods for removing PFAS.

**5. How can specifiers ensure water filters they are considering comply with AS/NZS 4020?**

They should look for a certificate issued by an accredited lab (e.g. WaterMark, SAI Global, IAPMO, NSF or independent NATA-accredited laboratories).