



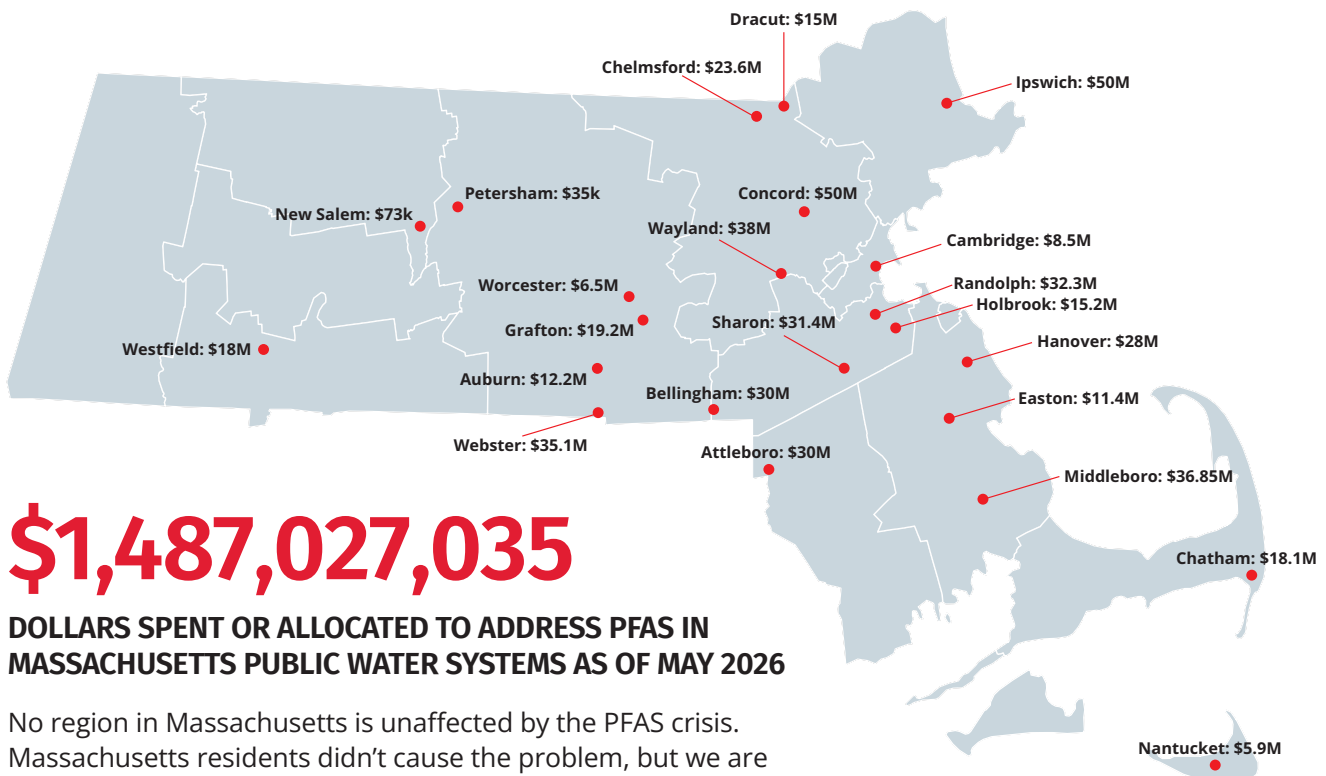
PFAS Contamination Costs in Massachusetts

Public water systems in 99 Massachusetts communities have found per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in drinking water at levels exceeding the Massachusetts Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL). The MCL is the highest amount of a contaminant that can be in drinking water without causing adverse health effects. To protect public health, these water systems have closed contaminated wells, constructed new water treatment facilities, provided bottled water for impacted residents, and/or connected to new water sources. Private well owners across the Commonwealth have also had to test and treat for PFAS.

PFAS contamination will continue to threaten our health, our water, and our environment until we:

- Phase out currently unavoidable PFAS and incentivize safer solutions
- Clean up existing contamination
- Stop putting contaminated wastewater sludge on land

Examples of the financial burden placed on communities to address this public health threat include:



\$1,487,027,035

DOLLARS SPENT OR ALLOCATED TO ADDRESS PFAS IN MASSACHUSETTS PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS AS OF MAY 2026

No region in Massachusetts is unaffected by the PFAS crisis. Massachusetts residents didn't cause the problem, but we are shouldering the costly burden of paying for the cleanup. Preventing PFAS contamination will protect communities before the harm and costs occur.

PFAS COSTS IN MA: \$1.48 billion is just the tip of the iceberg...

This amount doesn't include many [current and future costs](#) for:

- **Private wells:** Testing and filtration for the [500,000 Massachusetts residents](#) who rely on private wells.
- **Health care:** Providing health care to the many Massachusetts residents that are likely to become sick from illnesses caused by PFAS exposure. PFAS related illnesses are estimated to cost the U.S. \$5.5 to \$63 billion annually, according to researchers at [NYU Langone Health](#).
- **Farms:** Testing and cleanup of PFAS contaminated soil and water on [farms](#).
- **Natural resources:** Addressing PFAS contamination of [surface water](#), air, [soil](#), [fish](#), and [wildlife](#), and safely disposing of PFAS waste.
- **Annual operating costs:** Paying for ongoing operation and maintenance costs, such as replacing filters, estimated at [\\$250,000](#) to \$1.5 million each year.*
- **Newly contaminated communities:** Paying to clean up contamination in additional communities. As PFAS use continues, more towns are expected to find elevated levels of PFAS contamination in their drinking water. If Massachusetts adopts the MCL recommended by the Biden-era Environmental Protection Agency, public water systems in [an additional 95 Massachusetts towns](#) will likely exceed drinking water standards, requiring investments to maintain water quality.
- **PFAS that current technology cannot remove:** Installing new treatment to address ultra-short chain PFAS, which are [often not fully filtered](#) out of water using [current technologies](#).
- **Firefighting costs:** Providing firefighters with PFAS-free turnout gear and decontaminating fire trucks that have held PFAS-containing firefighting foam.



* Email from David Field, Department of Public Works Director, Easton, MA to Anne Gero, Seaside Sustainability, April 6, 2026

Protect our health. Stop the unnecessary use of PFAS.

PFAS threatens our health, water, and environment.

Communities in Massachusetts with elevated PFAS exposures are facing serious health concerns associated with these chemicals. All Massachusetts residents are paying to regain what we should never have lost: clean, healthy drinking water.

Clean it up and turn off the tap.

Massachusetts leaders have provided critical funding for clean-up, but no amount of money will be enough to contain PFAS contamination and protect MA residents if corporations don't stop making and using PFAS.



The best way to protect our water, health, and the environment is to phase out currently unavoidable uses of PFAS.

For more information about
PFAS costs in Massachusetts:

nonsticknightmare.org/nightmare-costs/



PFAS Contamination Costs in Massachusetts

Here's what we know so far on how we are paying for clean up.

From 2017–2026, Massachusetts spent or allocated over \$1.48 billion to address the PFAS contamination crisis. Of these identified costs, PFAS manufacturers covered less than 1% of total costs via identified legal settlements.

FEDERAL:

- The Department of Defense spent **\$48.8 million** to conduct environmental investigations and cleanup at designated military sites in the state. (2016-2023)
- The Environmental Protection Agency allocated **\$77 million** of Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds to the MA Department of Environmental Protection's (MADEP) Emerging Contaminants in Disadvantaged Communities Grant for PFAS removal. (2022-2025)
- An additional **\$9.1 million** was allocated in 2026.
- Massachusetts counties, cities and towns received **\$35.3 million** in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding and congressionally directed federal funds to design/construct PFAS water treatment facilities. (2022-2025)
- MADEP provided **\$8.4 million** in 2019 and 2020 for PFAS treatment design grants and an additional **\$2 million** for PFAS Rapid Response Grants. (2019-2022)
- MADEP spent **\$11 million** for the PFAS Free Laboratory Analyses Program for Public Water Suppliers and Private Wells. (2019-2022)
- MassDEP's Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup has spent **\$1 million** on PFAS Imminent Hazard Mitigation to respond to private wells with PFAS concentrations above the Imminent Hazard level. The state provided bottled water, sampling, Point of Entry Treatment system installation and operation and maintenance, and site oversight. (2019-2025)
- Massachusetts has spent **\$500,000** to administer the AFFF Takeback Program to collect and dispose of Aqueous Film-Forming Foam. (2017-2026)

STATE:

- The Massachusetts Clean Water Trust Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund has invested **\$1.009 billion** in loans and grants for local PFAS remediation projects. Money in the Clean Water Trust comes from federal and state sources. (2019-2026)

LOCAL:

- Local communities have allocated **\$262.3 million** of town resources to pay for PFAS clean-up. These funds come from assessments, increases in town water rates. Towns are also responsible for paying back State Revolving Loan Fund loans.

For more information about
PFAS costs in Massachusetts:

nonsticknightmare.org/nightmare-costs/

