Why Test Your Drinking Water?

Coliform Bacteria	Indicator of possible disease causing contamination, e.g. Gastro-intestinal illness
Lead	Brain, nerve and kidney damage (especially in children)
Nitrate & Nitrite	Methemoglobinemia ("blue baby syndrome")
Sulfate	
Odor & Color	
Iron plus manganese	Rusty or black staining of fixtures or clothes
Sodium	Effects on individuals with high blood pressure
pH	Pipe corrosion (lead and copper), metallic-bitter taste
Hardness	Mineral and soap deposits, detergents are less effective
Alkalinity	Inhibits chlorine effectiveness, metallic-bitter taste
Turbidity	Cloudy, "piggybacking" of contaminants, interferes with chlorine and UV-light disinfection
Pesticides and Arsenic	Recommended if there is nearby intensive agriculture.
Sodium, chloride, barium,	Gas drilling operations nearby
Volatile organic compounds, total dissolved solids, pH, sulfate, chloride, metals	Dump, junkyard, landfill, factory, gas station, or dry-cleaning operation nearby
Volatile organic compounds	Odor of gasoline or fuel oil, and near gas station or buried fuel tanks
Hydrogen sulfide, pH, metals	Objectionable taste or smell
Iron, copper, manganese, hardness	Stained plumbing fixtures, toilet tanks or laundry
Sodium, chloride, total dissolved solids	Stained plumbing fixtures, toilet tanks or laundry
Color, (detergents), turbidity, total dissolved solids	Water appears cloudy, frothy, or colored