

## Why Test Your Drinking Water?

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