



Aquarium Pharmaceuticals

AMMONIA ($\text{NH}_3/\text{NH}_4^+$) TEST KIT INSTRUCTIONS

Why Test for Ammonia?

Fish continually release ammonia (NH_3) directly into the aquarium/pond through their gills, urine, and solid waste. Uneaten food and other decaying organic matter also add ammonia to the water. A natural mechanism exists that controls ammonia in the aquarium/pond – the biological filter. However, as with any natural process, imbalances can occur. So, testing for the presence of toxic ammonia is essential. Ammonia in the aquarium/pond may damage gill membranes, and prevent fish from carrying on normal respiration. High levels of ammonia quickly lead to fish death. Even trace amounts stress fish, suppressing their immune system and increasing the likelihood of disease. Water should be tested for ammonia every other day when the aquarium is first set up, and once a week after the biological filter has been established (in about 4 - 6 weeks).

Testing Tips

This salicylate-based ammonia test kit reads the total ammonia level in parts per million (ppm) which are equivalent to milligrams per liter (mg/L) from 0 - 8.0 ppm (mg/L).

Directions



To remove childproof safety

cap: With one hand, push red tab left with thumb while unscrewing cap with free hand.

1. Fill a clean test tube with 5 ml of water to be tested (to the line on the tube).
2. Add 8 drops from Ammonia Test Solution Bottle #1, holding the dropper bottle upside down in a completely vertical position to assure uniform drops.
3. Add 8 drops from Ammonia Test Solution Bottle #2, holding the dropper bottle upside down in a completely vertical position to assure uniform drops.
4. Cap the test tube & shake vigorously for 5 seconds.
5. **Wait 5 minutes for the color to develop.**
6. Read the test results by comparing the color of the solution to the appropriate Ammonia Color Card (choose either Freshwater or Saltwater. For ponds, use the freshwater color card). The tube should be viewed in a well-lit area against the white area of the card. The closest match indicates the ppm (mg/L) of ammonia in the water sample. Rinse the test tube with clean water after use. Note: Do not pour test tube contents back into the aquarium/pond.

What the Test Results Mean

In a new aquarium/pond, the ammonia level may surge to 4 ppm (mg/L) or more, and then fall rapidly as the biological filter becomes established. The ammonia will be converted to nitrite (also toxic), then to nitrate. This process may take several weeks. Use API STRESS ZYME® to speed up the development of the biological filter. In an established aquarium/pond, the ammonia level should always remain at 0 ppm (mg/L); any level above 0 can harm fish. The presence of ammonia indicates possible over-feeding, too many fish, or inadequate biological filtration.



IRRITANT

Bottle #1 contains sodium salicylate.
May cause sensitisation by skin contact.
Keep out of the reach of children.
Avoid contact with skin.
Wear suitable gloves.
If swallowed, seek medical advice immediately and show this container or label.
Bottle #2 contains sodium hydroxide and sodium hypochlorite.
Causes severe burns.
Contact with acids liberates toxic gas.
Toxic by inhalation, in contact with skin and if swallowed.
Danger of cumulative effects.
Keep locked up and out of the reach of children.
Keep away from food, drink and animal feeding stuffs.
In case of contact with eyes, rinse immediately with plenty of water and seek medical advice.
If contact lens is present, remove after the first 5 minutes, then continue rinsing.
After contact with skin, wash immediately with plenty of water.
Remove contaminated clothing.
Wear suitable gloves and eye/face protection.
In case of accident, or if you feel unwell, seek medical advice immediately (show label where possible).
Do not mix with acidic materials.



CORROSIVE

Reducing Ammonia Levels

In a newly setup aquarium or pond, ammonia and nitrite levels will rise and then fall in the first few weeks, indicating the formation of the biological filter. However, to reduce ammonia levels within the first few weeks use API AMMO LOCK® or PondCare® AMMO LOCK as directed. After AMMO LOCK is added the ammonia will be converted into a non-toxic form. The Ammonia test kit will still show the ammonia, even though treating with AMMO LOCK has made it non-toxic. The biological filter will then consume the non-toxic ammonia, converting it to nitrite and then to nitrate.

In freshwater aquariums, adding API AMMO-CARB® or AMMO-CHIPS®, or in ponds PondCare AMMO ROCKS, to the filter will remove ammonia and improve water quality. In addition, a water change (25% or more) will reduce ammonia. In an emergency, a daily water change may be required over several days. Be sure to use a water conditioner, like STRESS COAT or AMMO LOCK, when adding tap water back into the aquarium or pond.



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Questions or Comments?

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