

NITRATE (NO₃⁻) TEST KIT INSTRUCTIONS

Why Test for Nitrate?

Nitrate (NO₃⁻) is produced in the aquarium by the biological filter. Beneficial bacteria in the biological filter convert toxic ammonia and nitrite into nitrate. A high nitrate level indicates a build-up of fish waste and organic compounds, resulting in poor water quality and contributing to the likelihood of fish disease. Maintaining a low nitrate level improves the health of fish and invertebrates. Excessive nitrate also provides a nitrogen source that can stimulate algal blooms. Aquarium water should be tested for nitrate once a week to make sure the nitrate does not reach an undesirable level.

Testing Tip: This test kit reads total nitrate (NO₃⁻) level in parts per million (ppm) which are equivalent to milligrams per liter (mg/L) from 0 - 160 ppm.

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 10 drops from Nitrate Test Solution #1**, holding dropper bottle upside down in a completely vertical position to assure uniformity of drops.
3. Cap the test tube and invert tube several times to mix solution.
4. **Vigorously shake the Nitrate Test Solution #2 for at least 30 seconds. This step is extremely important to insure accuracy of test results.**
5. **Now add 10 drops from Nitrate Test Solution #2**, holding dropper bottle upside down in a completely vertical position to assure uniformity of drops.
6. **Cap the test tube and shake vigorously for 1 minute. This step is extremely important to insure accuracy of test results.**
7. **Wait 5 minutes for the color to develop.**
8. Read the test results by comparing the color of the solution to the appropriate Nitrate Color Card (choose either Freshwater or Saltwater). 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 nitrate in the water sample. Rinse the test tube with clean water after use.

What the Test Results Mean

In new aquariums the nitrate level will gradually climb as the biological filter becomes established. A nitrate level of 40 ppm (mg/L) or less is recommended for freshwater aquariums. In marine aquariums, it is best to keep nitrate as low as possible, especially when keeping invertebrates.

Reducing Nitrate Levels

Add API NITRA-ZORB® / AQUA-DETOX to the filter to remove nitrate from freshwater aquariums. Making partial water changes can also help reduce nitrate, especially if the level is very high. However, because many tap water supplies contain nitrate, it can be difficult to lower nitrate levels by this method.

In ponds, nitrate can come from runoff water, plant fertilizers, tap water supplies and as the by-product of biological filtration. Plants and algae will help to keep nitrate levels below 40 ppm (mg/L). If the levels are too high, promoting additional plant growth or partial water changes are advised. To help plants grow and bloom, re-pot your plants with API POND AQUATIC PLANT MEDIA.

DANGER



NITRATE TEST SOLUTION #1

May be corrosive to metals • Harmful if inhaled • Causes severe skin and eye damage • Causes serious eye irritation • May cause respiratory irritation • Do not breathe dust/fume/gas/mist/vapors/spray • Use only in outdoors or in a well-ventilated area • Wear protective gloves/protective clothes/eye protection/face protection • Keep only in original container • IF SWALLOWED: Rinse mouth • DO NOT induce vomiting • IF ON SKIN (or hair): Take off immediately all contaminated clothing. Rinse skin with water/shower • IF IN EYES: Rinse cautiously with water for several minutes. Remove contact lenses, if present and easy to do. Continue rinsing • Immediately call a POISON CENTER/Doctor/physician/first aider • Specific treatment (see advice on this label) • If eye irritation persists: Get medical advice/attention • Wash contaminated clothing before use • Absorb spillage to prevent material damage • IF INHALED: Remove person to fresh air and keep comfortable for breathing • Store locked up • Store in a well-ventilated place • Keep container tightly closed • Dispose of contents/container to authorized chemical landfill or if organic to high temperature incineration.

WARNING



NITRATE TEST SOLUTION #2

Suspected of causing genetic defects • Wear protective gloves / protective clothes / eye protection / face protection • If exposed or concerned: Get medical advice/attention • Store locked up • Dispose of contents/container to authorized chemical landfill or if organic to high temperature incineration.

Questions or Comments?

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