

PHOSPHATE (PO_4^{3-}) TEST KIT INSTRUCTIONS

Why Test for Phosphate?

Phosphate (PO_4^{3-}) enters the aquarium from fish and invertebrate waste and decaying organic matter, such as dead algae and uneaten fish food. Water treatment facilities may add phosphate to tap water to prevent pipe corrosion and reduce concentrations of heavy metals in drinking water. Some salt mixes also contain phosphates. Excess phosphate may lead to algae blooms. In saltwater aquariums, phosphate precipitates dissolved calcium (Ca^{2+}) and magnesium (Mg^{2+}) ions, inhibiting the growth of hard corals and other reef-building organisms.

Testing Tips

This test kit reads the total phosphate level in parts per million (ppm), which are equivalent to milligrams per liter (mg/L) from 0 - 10.0 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. Holding the bottle vertically, **add 6 drops from Phosphate Test Solution #1**. Cap the test tube and shake vigorously for 5 seconds.
3. Now, holding the bottle vertically, **add 6 drops from Phosphate Test Solution #2**.
Note: Test Solution #2 is a very thick solution and may require increased pressure to release drops.
4. Cap and shake the test tube vigorously for 5 seconds.
5. **Wait 3 minutes for color to develop.**
6. Read the test results by comparing the color of the solution to the appropriate Phosphate 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 total phosphate (PO_4^{3-}) in the water sample. Rinse the test tube with clean water after use.

What the Test Results Mean

Ideally, the phosphate level should be 0 in aquariums (and ponds). The phosphate level in a new aquarium will depend on the purity of the water used to fill the aquarium. The phosphate level in tap water can vary daily depending on the treatment process used. Phosphate tends to accumulate in established aquariums.

Reducing Phosphate Levels

To quickly reduce phosphate, perform a partial water change. Remove any dirt and uneaten fish food from the bottom of the aquarium and change 25-50% of the water, depending on the phosphate concentration. To continually remove phosphate from the aquarium, add API PHOS-ZORB® / PREVENT ALGAE to the filter.

DANGER



PHOSPHATE TEST SOLUTION #1

May be corrosive to metals • Fatal if inhaled • Causes skin burns and eye damage • Causes serious eye damage • May cause damage to organs through prolonged or repeated exposure • 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 • In case of inadequate ventilation, wear respiratory protection • 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 INHALED: Remove person to fresh air and keep comfortable for breathing • 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 is urgent (see advice on this label) • Wash contaminated clothing before reuse • Absorb spillage to prevent material damage • Store in a well-ventilated place • Keep container tightly closed • Store locked up • Dispose of contents/container to authorized chemical landfill or if organic to high temperature incineration.

MARS

fishcare

North America

50 E. Hamilton St., Chalfont, PA 18914

Europe

Freeby Lane

Waltham-on-the-Wolds, LE14 4RS

United Kingdom

0-800-014-8173