

# Why Test Phosphate?

Phosphate is typically found in fish food, tap water, and other organic matter that enters the aquarium. It can also be produced by the metabolic processes of fish and other aquarium inhabitants.

Monitoring phosphate levels in aquariums is important because while small amounts are beneficial, high levels can lead to problems such as excessive algae growth, poor water quality, and decreased oxygen levels. In saltwater systems, high phosphate levels can affect calcium and magnesium levels, inhibiting proper coral growth. Conversely, too low phosphate levels can limit nitrifying bacteria's ability to convert nitrite to nitrate. Phosphate is also necessary for aquatic plants to photosynthesize.

Therefore, it is important to maintain a balance of phosphates in the aquarium, typically at a level of 0.05-0.1 ppm (parts per million) for freshwater aquariums and 0.03-0.05 ppm for saltwater aquariums.



## WARNING

### NITRATE TEST SOLUTION #2

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.

## 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 outdoors or in a well-ventilated area • 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.

**FRITZ**  
AQUATICS

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# PHOSPHATE $\text{PO}_4^{3-}$ TEST KIT

INSTRUCTIONS

FOR FRESH & SALTWATER AQUARIUMS



## Directions for Testing Phosphate Levels

NOTE: Read instructions thoroughly before testing.

**⚠ DO NOT allow Test Solutions to get into aquarium.**

To remove childproof safety cap, push down while turning.

- 01** Fill a clean test tube with **5 ml** of water to be tested (to the line on the tube).
- 02** **Add 6 drops** from **Phosphate Test Solution Bottle #1**, holding dropper bottle upside down in a completely vertical position to ensure uniformity of drops added to the water sample.
- 03** Cap the test tube and gently shake several times to mix solution. Attention! Always use the cap. Avoid skin contact as this may affect the test results.
- 04** **Add 6 drops** from **Phosphate Test Solution Bottle #2**, holding dropper bottle upside down in a completely vertical position to ensure uniformity of drops to the water sample.
- 05** **Cap the test tube** and **shake for one 5 seconds**.
- 06** Wait **three minutes** for the color to develop.
- 07** Read the test results by matching the color of the solution against those on the Phosphate Test Color Chart.

For best results the tube should be viewed against the white area beside the color chart in a well-lit area with a light source behind you. The closest match indicates the Phosphate in the water sample. Rinse the test tube with clean water after each use.



## Corrective Actions

✓ To reduce phosphate, perform partial water changes and use MaxOut, or MaxOut Pro all-in-on filter media products, FritzZyme Turbo Clean, or Fritz PX-1 GFO.

✓ To increase phosphate, add Fritz pH Neutralizer or any high-phosphate supplement or fish food, or perform partial water changes with tap water high in phosphate.