

## Water Testing...

Determining the quality of aquarium water is easy to do. You can purchase test kits that will measure all of the parameters mentioned and more.

Test kits are available in liquid, tablet and strip forms. The liquid test kit works by adding a specific number of drops to a measured sample of aquarium water. The sample changes colour which can then be compared to a chart to calculate the result. Tablet tests are very similar but use tablets rather than liquid drops. Strips are also available where the strip is dipped into the aquarium before comparing to the colour chart.

Testing the salinity is performed using a different method. An instrument known as a hydrometer is either placed within the aquarium or filled with aquarium water depending on the style. It must be remembered that these instruments actually measure specific gravity (or SG for short). This closely approximates the actual salinity. For a more accurate measure, the SG and temperature can be used to determine the salinity from a chart often provided with hydrometers.

To obtain greater precision and accuracy in the results, additional testing equipment is available. Electronic pH probes can measure pH to a greater level of degree and precision, and controllers can also be obtained to regulate the pH. These are useful when using carbon dioxide fertilisation in heavily planted aquaria.

In addition to hydrometers, refractometers can be used to measure salinity. These devices are easy to use and can provide a greater level of precision for determining salinity.

## Precautions...

The chemicals used to test water quality may be hazardous to health. Always take care when using these kits and ensure that they cannot come into contact with your livestock. Also take care when testing to avoid any spillages and store out of reach of children and other pets.

Always follow the manufacturers instructions carefully. Many colour-based test kits require a specific amount of time to elapse before comparing to the provided colour chart. Ensure that you observe the instructions fully to ensure that your testing is accurate. Also note that some of the chemicals used cannot be stored indefinitely and may lead to incorrect test results if used outside of this period.

## Checklist...

Before purchase ensure that:

- You understand the importance of water testing
- You are familiar with what water quality parameters are most relevant to your aquarium
- You are familiar with the requirements of the fish you wish to keep

Equipment:

- Liquid, tablet or strip test kits suitable for your type of aquarium
- Thermometer
- Hydrometer or refractometer for marine aquaria if required

**NEVER RELEASE YOUR AQUARIUM ANIMALS OR PLANTS INTO THE WILD.**

Never release an animal or plant bought for a home aquarium into the wild. It is illegal and for most fish species this will lead to an untimely and possibly lingering death as they are not native to this country. Any animals or plants that do survive might be harmful to the environment.

*If in doubt contact your OATA  
retail member for further information*



**ORNAMENTAL AQUATIC TRADE ASSOCIATION LTD**

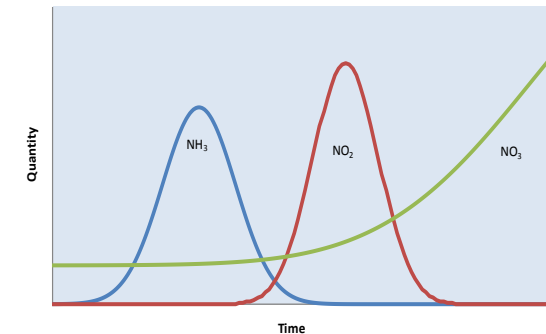
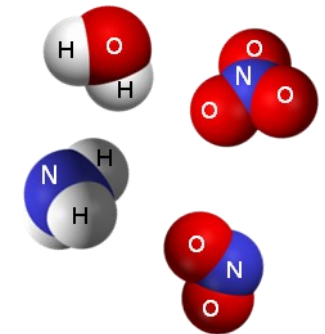
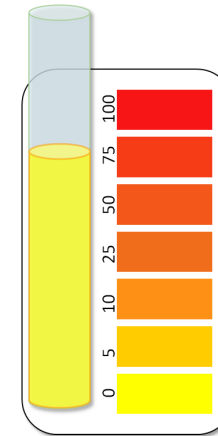
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## How to...



## Understand and Test Water Quality

