test results. The Freshwater Ammonia Test Color Chart is the appropriate chart to use for testing freshwater and solid waste. Uneaten food and other decaying materials will be consumed by the fish or plants in the aquarium through their gills, urine, and feces. However, as with any natural process, imbalances can occur. Testing for the presence of toxic ammonia is essential, so that once detected, steps can be taken to remove it. Otherwise, ammonia in high levels can lead to fish death.

High levels of ammonia quickly lead to fish death. Monitoring Ammonia Levels

Regular testing is necessary to make sure the ammonia level in the aquarium is safe. Aquarium water should be tested for ammonia every other day when the aquarium system is new. This process may take several weeks. Use Aquarium Pharmaceuticals STRESS ZYME to speed up the development of the biological filter. In an established aquarium, the ammonia level should always remain at 0 ppm (mg/L). The presence of ammonia indicates possible toxic ammonia to a non-toxic form. Ammonia test kits will still test positive for ammonia, even though the biological filter has transformed the non-toxic ammonia, converting it to nitrate and then to nitrite.

Filtering Method to Remove Ammonia in Freshwater Aquariums

Filter aquarium water with Aquarium Pharmaceuticals AMMO-CARBS or AMMO-CHIPs to remove ammonia and improve water quality.

Why test for Ammonia?

Tropical fish continually release ammonia (NH₃) directly into the aquarium 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 – the biological filters. It is made up of nitifying bacteria, which live in the gravel bed. However, as with any natural process, imbalances can occur. Testing for the presence of toxic ammonia is essential, so that once detected, steps can be taken to remove it. Otherwise, ammonia in high levels can lead to fish death. Monitoring Ammonia Levels

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What the Test Results Mean

In a new freshwater or saltwater aquarium, the ammonia level may surge to 6 ppm (mg/L) or more, and then fall rapidly as the biological filter becomes established. The ammonia level may be converted to nitrite (toxic), then to nitrate (less toxic), and this process may take several weeks. Use Aquarium Pharmaceuticals STRESS ZYME to speed up the development of the biological filter. In an established aquarium, the ammonia level should always remain at 0 ppm (mg/L). The presence of ammonia indicates possible toxic ammonia to a non-toxic form. Ammonia test kits will still test positive for ammonia, even though the biological filter has transformed the non-toxic ammonia, converting it to nitrate and then to nitrite.

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