

5270



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aquarium

Phosphate

PO_4^{3-} (0–6000 ppb)

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Phosphate – Phosphate (PO_4^{3-}) naturally increases in tank water from fish waste or from decomposing organic matter. Phosphate is a highly mobile form of phosphorus and is easily incorporated into plants, including algae. Controlling phosphates in aquariums is mostly to prevent algal blooms, which can result in competition for vital nutrients. For coral, it is more important to keep phosphate levels low so that coral growth is not inhibited. High phosphate levels can be caused by over feeding or the use of additives like fertilizers. Replacement tap water may also contain phosphates. Phosphate levels of the aquarium water should be tested weekly.

Kit Components

- R-4019 Phosphate Reagent #1
- R-4020 Phosphate Reagent #2
- 4023 Test Tube
- 6021 Rubber Stopper
- 5270 Instruction
- 5638 Color Card - Phosphate (Low Range)
- 5639 Color Card - Phosphate (High Range)



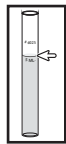
Phosphate

PO_4^{3-} (0-6000 ppb)

Procedure

Keep Reagents Away From Children. Do not put reagents or samples into aquarium.

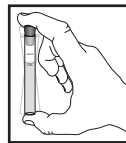
Phosphate Test



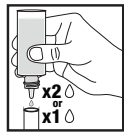
1. Add 5 mL of sample water to a clean test tube (#4023).



2. Add 5 drops of R-4019 Phosphate Reagent #1. Hold dropper bottle vertically when dispensing the reagent.



3. Secure stopper in test tube and shake for 5 seconds to mix.



5. For High Range, add 2 drops of R-4020 Phosphate Reagent #2. For Low Range, add 1 drop of R-4020 Phosphate Reagent #2. Hold dropper bottle vertically when dispensing the reagent.



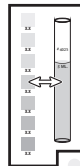
6. Secure stopper in test tube and shake for 5 seconds to mix.



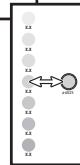
7. Wait 1 minutes for full color development.



4. Wait 2 minutes.



- 8a. Compare the results to the color card. Make sure to hold the test tube in bright light and fully against the white background for the most accurate reading.



- 8b. If results appear lower than 1000 ppb, remove the cap and place standing up on the white background of the color chart. Compare colors by looking down through the tube from above.

Recommendations

It is recommended to keep phosphate levels less than 50 ppb, so that coral growth is not inhibited. Freshwater plant aquariums are typically in the range of 100-1000 ppb. Phosphate levels are not recommended to exceed 1000 ppb. Concentrations over 125 ppb can promote algal blooms. If phosphate levels test high, it is recommended to perform a water change.