



## Quick Reference: Understanding Water Parameters

Parameters and Their Roles		Proper Levels	When to Test	
 <b>CaCO<sub>3</sub></b> ALKALINITY	<b>ALKALINITY</b> Stabilizes pH; Essential for coral health and growth	<b>7-10</b> dkh	<b>1-2x</b> per week	
 <b>NH<sub>3</sub></b> AMMONIA	<b>AMMONIA</b> Toxic to coral, fish and other tank inhabitants	<b>0</b> parts per million	<b>daily</b> during cycling	<b>1x</b> per month
 <b>Ca</b> CALCIUM	<b>CALCIUM</b> Essential for coral health and growth	<b>400 - 450</b> parts per million	<b>1x</b> per week	
 <b>Mg</b> MAGNESIUM	<b>MAGNESIUM</b> Proper levels help keep calcium carbonate in solution to stabilize alkalinity; Helps build the skeleton of hard corals	<b>1250 - 1500</b> parts per million	<b>every other</b> week	
 <b>NO<sub>3</sub></b> NITRATE	<b>NITRATE</b> Small amounts are needed for tank health; High levels are damaging to corals and can contribute to algae growth	<b>0.025 - 5.0</b> parts per million	<b>1x</b> per week	
 <b>NO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup></b> NITRITE	<b>NITRITE</b> High levels are toxic to coral and can lead to coral death	<b>&lt;0.02</b> parts per million	<b>daily</b> during cycling	<b>1x</b> per month
 <b>pH</b> ACIDITY	<b>PH</b> Stabilizes pH; Essential for coral health and growth	<b>8.0 - 8.4</b>	<b>1x</b> per week	
 <b>PO<sub>4</sub><sup>3-</sup></b> PHOSPHATE	<b>PHOSPHATE</b> Small amounts needed for tank health; High levels can lead to the nuisance algae growth, loss of coral color or even coral death	<b>0.02-0.05</b> parts per million	<b>1x</b> per week	
 <b>NaCl</b> SALINITY	<b>SALINITY</b> Corals need a certain water to salt ratio to survive	<b>1.025-1.028</b> sg	<b>every</b> water change	<b>1x</b> per week
 <b>TEMPERATURE</b>	<b>TEMPERATURE</b> Outside proper range can stagnate coral growth; lead to coral bleaching or even coral death	<b>75-78°</b> fahrenheit	<b>every</b> water change	<b>daily</b> 7x per week

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