



## Wet Pets N Critters

### Understanding pH and the Benefits of Using RO Water

#### What is pH?

pH measures whether water is acidic, neutral, or alkaline. The scale runs from 0 to 14:

- Below 7.0 = acidic
- 7.0 = neutral
- Above 7.0 = alkaline

#### What affects pH in an aquarium?

The biggest factor is the water you use when setting up your tank or doing water changes. Tap water pH varies depending on location.

Other factors that affect pH:

- The **nitrification cycle**: As bacteria break down waste, they create nitric acid, which lowers pH.
- **Low aeration**: Without enough air movement, carbon dioxide can build up and lower pH.
- **Aquarium chemicals**: Some treatments can raise or lower pH.
- Certain **rocks and decorations** can also impact pH.

#### Why is pH important?

Most aquarium fish can handle a pH between 6.6 and 7.2, but pH affects how toxic ammonia is in your tank.

- If pH is **above 7.0**, ammonia is more harmful.
- If pH is **below 7.0**, ammonia is less toxic.

Keeping your pH in a safe range helps protect your fish.

#### How do I test my pH?

We sell easy-to-use, affordable pH test kits. If you need help, bring in a water sample, and we'll test it for you at no charge.

#### Should I adjust my pH?

It is usually safer to keep pH below 7.0 to reduce ammonia's toxicity. However, in some areas, the local water makes this difficult. Some aquarium owners focus on keeping ammonia levels low instead of adjusting pH.

#### How do I adjust my pH?

If pH is **above 7.0 and you want to lower it:**

- Use a pH test kit and pH-lowering products (available at Wet Pets N Critters).
- Follow product instructions carefully.
- Check pH daily for three days. If it rises again, add more pH adjuster.
- The pH should stabilize until your next water change.

Before adding new water, adjust its pH to match your tank.

If pH is **below 7.0 and you want to raise it:**

- Test your tap water. If your tap water pH is above 7.0, doing a water change will naturally raise the pH.

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## Why Use RO Water Instead of Tap Water?

Tap water often contains substances that can harm your aquarium, such as:

- Chlorine and chloramines used for water treatment
- Phosphates and nitrates that promote algae
- Heavy metals and minerals that may affect sensitive fish

Even if it looks clean, tap water may introduce chemicals that can throw off your tank's balance.

**RO (Reverse Osmosis) water** removes nearly all impurities. At Wet Pets N Critters, our RO water goes through multiple filtration stages, including sediment and carbon filters, a membrane, and an ion exchange resin. This process strips the water of chlorine, chloramines, phosphates, nitrates, and unwanted minerals, giving you a clean slate for your tank.

RO water allows you to control exactly what your fish and corals receive. For freshwater tanks, we recommend adding back essential minerals and salts (available as R/O Right by Kent Marine). For saltwater tanks, sea salt mixes provide everything your fish and corals need.

If you struggle with algae problems like brown algae or green/black hair algae, switching to RO water can make a big difference.

At Wet Pets N Critters, we offer RO water with or without sea salt added, depending on your needs.