# **AMMONIA IN FISH TANK**

Ammonia poisoning is a fatal disease found among the fish in the tank, which often causes death. The **ammonia level in fish tank** should be null as to avoid any kind of poisoning in the tank. Mostly, a shallow level of **ammonia in fish tank** can be considered as not so dangerous for the fish. However, it can cause a minute level of problem. Whereas, as there turns **high ammonia In the fish tank**, the fish can eventually succumb to death.

Now, the most crucial issue becomes **how to check ammonia in fish tank.** In this case, one can always consider an ammonia test as the best option for it. Also, one needs to have an understanding of **symptoms of ammonia in fish tank.**

## **AMMONIA IN FISH TANK SYMPTOMS**

One can detect the presence of ammonia in the fish tank or ammonia poisoning in the fish through several symptoms. Ammonia poisoning generally causes some substantial changes in the fish, which gives a clue of the presence of ammonia poisoning in the fish. The symptoms of ammonia poisoning don't appear immediately. It may take a few days to emerge of even a period.

Now, ammonia poisoning is not at all a standard issue as it can lead to the death of fish. Thus, one should be very careful and aware of the emerging ammonia in the fish tank. There can be various **symptoms of ammonia in fish tank.**

* Firstly, one can mark the point of the fish moving towards the upper surface of the tank to get access to air. As now, the water present in the tank is not preferable for the fish, and the fish may face particular difficulty while breathing in the tank due to the presence of ammonia in the fish tank.
* The second pronounced symptom of ammonia poisoning can be the change in the colour of the fish. The fish may turn dark when the ammonia is reacting to its body. So, one can get an idea of ammonia poisoning developing in the fish.
* Now, the gills of the fish may even turn purple, red or lilac in case of ammonia poisoning. Also, at times the gills may start bleeding or appear to be bleeding due to ammonia poisoning.
* One may also be able to see an emergence of red streaks on the fins and body of the fish. This is usually caused due to prolonged damage to the fish's tissue which thus leads to bloody patches on the body and fins of the fish and a torn fin.
* Also, the fish’s brain can get damaged. The organs and the whole Central Nervous System of the fish can get affected due to ammonia poisoning. At times, the ammonia poisoning can always lead to internal and external haemorrhage, thus, causing the death of the fish.
* Lastly, one can also see the fish getting lethargic, weak and laying at the tank's bottom. It can be the result of the decreasing appetite of the fish, which is thus caused by ammonia poisoning.

This way, the body functions of the fish gradually fail and cause fatal conditions constituting death. For now, it becomes essential for one to understand the basic reason as to **what causes ammonia in fish tank** and take steps to check the ammonia present in water and even to check the ammonia poisoning which has developed in the fish.

## **WHAT CAUSES AMMONIA IN FISH TANK**

**Ammonia in fish tank** is the fatal problem and acts like a fish killer. It is essential to develop the knowledge of **what causes ammonia in fish tank** and take precautions accordingly. Now, it may develop in the tank due to several reasons.

Firstly, ammonia poisoning can be caused as one sets a new fish tank. In this case, it usually takes time for the tank to establish the nitrogen cycle in the tank. Thus, initially, the water contains ammonia which can be very dangerous for the fish.

Also, in the old tank, ammonia can be traced as a result of the failure of it's purifying filter. It may be failure may be caused due to different reasons, that is, either power issue or any mechanical problem. Even dirty water or changing water conditions can cause ammonia to rise in the water. For these reasons, regular checking of the water becomes compulsory.

Another reason for ammonia poisoning is that the rise in the pH level of the tank. Typically, the water pH level for the fish is supposed to be zero. As the level goes above this, it becomes dangerous for the fish.

Furthermore, tap water can be one of the causes of ammonia poisoning. Tap water is chemically treated, which can damage the gills of the fish. Not the slightest level of **ammonia in the fish tank** can be harmful to the fish. The level of the poison is directly proportional to the **ammonia level in fish tank.** We know that companies generally prefer chemicals such as chloramine to treat ammonia in a fish tank. It is usually termed as the best method for purifying the city water while this water is very harmful to the fish in the tank.

Stocking the tank with too many fish at once can also be one of the causes of ammonia poisoning. Fish can be considered responsible for the rise of **ammonia in fish tank.** Whenever it is that the fish eats something, it generates certain by-products in its body. Now, as these by-products enter their blood, there are chances of it being released into the water through the gills of the fish. Thus, this gradually increases the ammonia level in the fish tank.

Also, the organic matter in the tank can be one primary reason for ammonia poisoning. As these organic matter goes on to decompose, they eventually lead to an increase in the **ammonia level in fish tank.** These decomposed matters can be plants present in the tank, excretion of the fish or even the left out food of the fish.

Even overfeeding fish can result in ammonia poisoning as it thus leads to more amount of by-products accumulating in the tank through the fish's body.

Moreover, as the fish tank is left dirty, it gives rise to the development of bacteria which prefers to stay in the water with ammonia in it.

Thus, these are the fundamental causes while eventually leads to ammonia in the water and leads to ammonia poisoning in the fish's body leading to severe and dangerous problems. One needs to be aware of these causes as it becomes very helpful for further precautions.

Now, as we are aware of the causes and symptoms of the causes and symptoms of ammonia poisoning in the fish, we can take specific steps to treat ammonia in the tank and then ammonia poisoning.

## **How to check ammonia in fish tank**

As we discuss the details of **how to check ammonia in fish tank,** it is understood that **ammonia in fish tank** won’t go down instantly. Certain stages for **reducing ammonia in fish tank** are needed to be taken. As it becomes very difficult to get rid of ammonia poisoning once it has developed, it is crucial to take certain measures to check ammonia in the fish tank before it develops.

* Firstly, it is recommended to use the gravel of a pre-established fish tank, which is also very hygienic, so that is doesn't lead to some more severe issues. Since this gravel has already developed anaerobic bacteria, this bacteria further helps to **reduce ammonia in fish tank.** One can take almost a handful of this gravel and then move on to placing it at the very bottom of the tank so that the bacteria may be useful in the entire water. Also, this becomes an essential step as in the beginning while the tank is newly set up, it generally takes time to establish its complete the nitrogen cycle.

Thus, this gravel can be adequate to **reduce ammonia in fish tank.**

* Secondly, one should always keep in mind that initially, it is crucial to put just two fishes in the tank at a time. It is essential as the tank had not developed the working of the nitrogen cycle at this point. Placing more than two fish at this point can lead to a higher level of ammonia effect on the fish as the fish will go on to excrete more. Thus, this excretion, eventually, paves the way for the existence of harmful bacteria and also ammonia in the fish tank.

Also, this should be practised with the old tank as well. One should remember not to overload the tank and place only two fish even after the tank has been well established.

* Thirdly, it is very crucial not to overfeed the fish. As one goes on to increase the amount of food, it gradually leads to an increase in the number of by-products in the body of the fish. Then on, this by-product enters into the blood and thus mixes with the water through the gills of the fish. As a result, these by-products lead to the development of bacteria, which then increases the ammonia level in the fish tank.

It is also very essential to remove any amount of left out food from the tank as it may add up to the amount of decomposed matter in the tank. These decomposed matters, further, leads to the generation of ammonia in the water and now the bacteria which are usually born in ammonia filled water are developed.

* A fourth important factor in **reducing ammonia in fish tank** is kept on cleaning the tank regularly. The tank needs to be cleaned either once or twice a week. It helps to keep a check on the **ammonia level in the fish tank.**
* The fifth preventive method of checking ammonia in the fish tank is to keep on changing the water in the tank partially. Also, one can get a water test done. In case of extreme conditions, one can even use an ammonia detoxifier for clearing up ammonia from the fish tank. An Aqueon Ammonia Cartridge Mini Pad, available on amazon.com can be used for removing excess harmful matters from the fish tank and also the toxic ammonia present in the tank. The product promotes the existence of a very healthy environment for the fish to survive in the tank. <https://www.amazon.com/Aqueon-Pack-Cartridge-Ammonia-Minipad/dp/B075KLCYS7>

Therefore, these steps can be very beneficial to know **how to check ammonia in fish tank,** and this, further **reduce ammonia in fish tank.**

However, in case the ammonia poisoning had already developed in the fish, it becomes complicated to get away with the diseases. The diseases really can prove to be deadly for the fish causing an eventual death of the fish in the tank. Notwithstanding this, one can take some crucial steps to get the fish a relief from ammonia poisoning and made the disease vanish.

## **TREATMENT TO THE DISEASE OF AMMONIA POISONING**

Although, the presence of more than one ppm of ammonia in the fish tank can be dangerous, when the ammonia poisoning had already affected the fish, any amount of ammonia in the fish tank turns out to be deadly. Thus, it immediately needs to be checked.

Also, as one reduces the level of pH in water, it provides instant relief to the fish. Ammonia is generally stabilized by acidic water.

Further, a chemically proven pH control commodity can be used to neutralize the ammonia present in the fish tank.

More importantly, one needs to strictly follow the advice of not feeding the fish while treating it for ammonia poisoning. While in case the poisoning has reached a very high level, one should continue not to feed the fish for a longer period to reduce the ammonia waste.

Lastly, one must remember not to add any more fish in the tank during the ongoing process of ammonia poisoning treatment. In case any new fish is added in the tank, it may cause a hindrance in the treatment procedure.

Thus, these steps can be taken in case the disease has already affected the fish's body. If one doesn't take certain precautions, the disease may eventually affect the metabolism of the fish's body and can even breakdown the nervous system of the fish. Therefore, to avoid any such situation, preventive measures need to be followed strictly.

Therefore, in the end, we can sum up the idea of **how to check ammonia in fish tank.** As one becomes aware of the primary symptoms, which generally lead to an increase in the ammonia level in the fish tank and ammonia poisoning, one can accordingly take certain measures to **reduce ammonia in fish tank.** Also, the basic know-how of **what causes ammonia in fish tank** is equally important as to take the succeeding preventive steps. Since negligence of the emergence of ammonia in the fish tank can be very detrimental and cause serious diseases in the fish, also, one can follow the basic measure of cycling the tank for lowering the **ammonia level in the fish tank.** Thus these steps can be very beneficial for checking **ammonia in fish tank.**