High Nitrite In Fish Tank

Nitrite in the fish tank is usually the cause of high ammonia produced in the tank. As the byproducts of the fishes are further decomposed, it develops ammonia in the tank, which is very dangerous for the fish in the tank. Also, this ammonia gives way to **high nitrite in the fish tank.** This nitrite is equally hazardous for the fish's body and in some cases, can even cause the death of the fish.

Generally, anything below two ppm is considered to be a **safe level of nitrite in fish tank,** and nitrite level above two ppm is considered seriously detrimental for the fish. However, this does not mean that below two ppm **nitrite levels in fish tank** should be left unchecked since in the coming future this may increase to be wreaking havoc for the fish.

Since ammonia is considered as the first stage of nitrite development in the fish tank, it becomes essential to focus on lowering or preventing ammonia development in the fish tank for **reducing nitrite in fish tank.** Not only the nitrite causes subtle damage to the fish's health but also can cause its death. Nitrite is termed as the most lethal and toxic chemical in the fish tank.

Thus, one needs to take immediate steps to prevent and lower the existence of toxic nitrite in the fish tank. One can always do the nitrite test to check **nitrite level in fish tank.** When the nitrogen filter present in the tank is properly working, it converts the nitrite in the fish tank into harmless nitrate. Nevertheless, this nitrate should also be removed from the tank in no time to prevent nitrite development in the future.

Now, to fix the nitrite in the tank, one needs to have an understanding of the fundamental reasons for the **nitrite level high in fish tank.**

## **Reasons for high nitrite in fish tank**

Nitrite is a waste product which develops during the ongoing biological filtration process. Now, what happens is that the bacteria produced during this biological filtration process, convert the harmful ammonia into even most dangerous product that is nitrite. This, it is essential to establish a good nitrogen filter so that this nitrite remains checked.

Firstly, it is a known fact that a new tank takes reasonable time to produce an adequate amount of beneficial bacteria. This bacteria further take its own time for getting multiplied and thus, in the beginning, the tank is unable to check the toxic nitrite’s development in the fish tank.

Secondly, it is also the biological filter which can be termed as being responsible for the increasing nitrite levels in the tank as we know that a poor or damaged filter generates hindrance in converting the nitrite into harmless nitrate by the bacteria. In this case, the nitrite remains in the fish tank unchecked and continues to affect the fish in an unhealthy manner.

Thirdly, and increases the number of fishes in the fish tank can also be held responsible for the level of **nitrite high in fish tank.** Also, too large fishes can be a factor responsible for increasing **nitrite level in fish tank.** In these conditions, the fishes give out various byproducts, mainly excretion, which further decomposes to produce ammonia and later on nitrite in the fish tank.

A fourth important factor for the presence of **nitrite in fish tank too high** can be the overfeeding of the fish. When the fish is overhead, it generally excretes in the tank and thus generates inevitable byproducts in the tank which produces toxic nitrite.

The fifth is the change in water or over-cleaning of the tank. Here the benefitting bacteria's gets destroyed or washed away, and thus, it is not able to complete its task of fixing nitrite in the tank.

Therefore, we can undoubtedly term these factors as being responsible for the **high nitrite in fish tank.**

Now, to get an idea of an increase in the nitrite level in the fish tank, one should develop the knowledge of the primary symptoms of the **high nitrite in fish tank.**

## **Symptoms of high nitrite in fish tank**

Increased **nitrite levels in fish tank** can pave the way for the development of a fatal disease in the fish called nitrite poisoning. Nitrite poisoning can also be referred to as ' brown blood poisoning ' since **chang**ing the blood colour into brown. Nitrite poisoning can damage the necessary immune system of the fish and also cause other issues of itching, fin rot, and other bacterial infections. At times it can even kill the fish.

* The first prominent symptom of nitrate poisoning is the change of the gill colour in fishes. Since the nitrate poisoning causes the blood to turn brown, it leads to an increase of methemoglobin in the fish. This methemoglobin shrinks the blood capacity of carrying oxygen.
* Now as the fish's blood is not capable of carrying oxygen, it now causes suffocation in the fish, and thus the fish can be seen as moving to the top of the tank to breathe.
* Also, this **high nitrite in fish tank** makes the fish listless. In some cases, if the fish is too weak, it can even die at the very beginning of nitrite poisoning.
* The fish is also seen as gathering near the outlets of the tank to escape the toxic nitrite abundant water.
* One also observes a rapid movement of the fish’s gills which is an alarming factor of **nitrite in fish tank too high** and needs immediate treatment of the water.
* Further, the methemoglobin can also cause several liver diseases, gill damage and damage to the blood cells.

Thus, one needs to have a solid understanding of these primary symptoms of increasing **nitrite levels in fish tank.** Whenever one gets to observe any of these symptoms in their fish, instant actions are required to avoid any further unpleasant situations. We now need to know about **lowering nitrite in fish tank.**

## **Lowering nitrite in fish tank**

It becomes crucial to develop knowledge of how to make the fish tank nitrite free. Although below two ppm is considered a **safe level of nitrite in fish tank,** it is equally essential to get rid of this nitrite. If left unchecked, this deficient level of nitrite can further increase in volume and can be disastrous for the fish's survival in the tank. Now, we need to take specific steps to ensure complete clearance of nitrite from the fish tank. These essential steps are:-

* Change water in the fish tank partially every week. This regular changing of the fish tank’s water goes on to dilute the nitrite in the fish tank.
* Some bacteria products are often seen as helping fix nitrite in the fish tank. Even if there is zero amount of ammonia present in the fish tank, nitrite presence can still be harmful to the fish since it generally hinders the nitrogen cycle making it unable for the bacteria to fix nitrite. Bottled bacteria products are readily available at Amazon.com at very reasonable prices. API Quick Start Nitrifying Bacteria for Freshwater and Saltwater Aquarium are available at Amazon.com. <https://www.amazon.com/API-Nitrifying-Aquarium-Maintains-Biological/dp/B006YG12F6>. One can pour the entire bacteria present in the bottle into the tank, which is more tank 30 gallons. Also, avoid changing this bacteria-rich water for several days, and it will allow the bacteria to function properly. This bacteria helps in converting the nitrite into harmless nitrate, thus, reducing the risk of nitrite poisoning in the fish.
* Now, set up a good filter in the fish tank so that it helps in generating more bacteria for fixing nitrite in the fish tank. As we know that the methemoglobin produced by the nitrite poisoning can cause suffocation in the fish and prevent it from breathing correctly, this filter can help the fish in proper breathing by increasing the oxygen levels in the fish tank. This helps the fish in fighting fewer oxygen levels in the fish's blood.

Furthermore, one can also use the filters from an old and established tank. It is a common issue of a newly set up tank that it is not able to develop an ample amount of bacteria required to check nitrite development in the fish tank. However, an old tank is well established and can develop a large number of bacteria in very less time and thus, check the nitrite development properly. These bacteria also help to increases the speed of the nitrogen cycle.

* Nitrite poisoning is developed as the fish excretion level increases — this way, the fish exudes a large amount of ammonia through its gills into the water. Also, we know that an increase in nitrite level is directly proportional to the ammonia level. Thus, this ammonia causes the **nitrite in fish tank too high.** To check this nitrite level, one needs to do **nitrite test in fish tank.**

This nitrite test is required to be done in various situations. One can do the **nitrite test in fish tank** while a new fish tank is set up since it is initially, unable to develop adequate bacteria. Also, while adding up new fish in the tank, nitrite test should be done as the fresh fish may increase the amount of ammonia given out in the fish tank, thus, generating nitrite in the fish tank. Moreover, the biological filter for processing the nitrogen cycle may have failed to function properly due to different mechanical reasons. In this case, the **nitrite test in fish tank** becomes essential. Lastly, one can also go for **nitrite test in fish tank** when the fish is being medicated to avoid nitrite development in the fish tank.

* Furthermore, one can also add some marine salt that is Sodium chloride in the fish tank. As this marine salt dechlorinates the water thus, reducing the presence of nitrite in the water. Half a tablespoon of this salt should be added in one-gallon water of the fish tank, and further, the dose can be increased according to the gallons present. This marine salt lowers the level of methemoglobin present in the fish tank and thus, prevents the fish from taking in nitrite through its gills. However, it should be kept in mind to avoid iodized table salt.
* Now, it is also crucial to increase the aeration of the fish tank. As we are aware of the suffocation of the fish due to lack of oxygen in its blood, growing aeration for the fish tank goes on to increase the level of oxygen in the water. This helps in the proper breathing of the fish and further helping it not to move towards the top of the fish tank to breathe.
* As a step for **lowering nitrite in fish tank,** one also needs to avoid overfeeding the fish as this leads to more excretion of the fish into the water. This excretion can increase the amount of ammonia in the fish tank, thus giving rise to nitrite in the fish tank. Also, in case the nitrite had already affected the fish causing nitrite poisoning, it is recommended not to feed the fish for several days until the nitrite is done away with.
* The leftover food of the fish is also required to be cleared from the tank in no time since it may generate more decomposed organic matter in the fish tank, thus, causing **high nitrite in fish tank.**
* It is also very essential to remember that one should restrain from adding more than two fishes into the newly set up fish tank since at this time the biological filter of the tank is not able to process entirely and develop enough bacteria to fix the nitrite present in the fish tank. Thus, avoid adding too many fishes. Now, even if the container has been well established, one needs to avoid adding more than two fishes at a time. In this way, the filter will be able to function correctly.

If it is, that a fish has been poisoned due to **high nitrite in fish tank**, one should avoid adding any new fish in the tank during the process of treatment of the fish tank and the fish itself.

* Lastly, one needs to follow the proper hygiene process for maintaining a healthy environment for the fish in the tank. The tank needs to be cleaned every week, and any unwanted, decomposed organic matter or plants present in the fish tank should be appropriately cleared away from the fish tank. Thus, helping to avoid any kind of disease to develop in the fish as a result of **high nitrite in fish tank.**

Thus, we now know as to how to get rid of nitrite in the fish tank. Notwithstanding the **safe level of nitrite in fish tank,** one should always remember to do away with any amount of **nitrite high in fish tank** to avoid any unpleasant situations. We know that nitrite level when exceeds its level can also cause the death of the fish. Nitrite is responsible for the occurrence of a fatal disease called nitrite poisoning in the fish which can cause severe damages of its liver, fins, gill, and blood cells and at times even lead the fish to succumb to death. Thus, one should do **nitrite test in fish tank** so that the fish doesn’t die of suffocating and any amount of nitrite in the tank remains unchecked.

Therefore, we have discussed the entire detail related to **nitrite levels in the tank.** From the reasons for nitrite development to the symptoms and process of **lowering nitrite in fish tank,** this article provided an ample amount of details for nitrite development in fish tank.