











Saltwater Aquarium Water Parameters Guidelines

General guideline of acceptable water parameter ranges for saltwater aquariums.

Parameter	Reef Aquarium	Fish Only	Nature (Coral Reef)*	
Temperature	76-83° F	72-78° F	82° F	
Salinity	1.023-1.026 (32-35 ppt)	1.020-1.025	1.025-1.027 (34-36 ppt)	
pH	8.1-8.4	8.1-8.4	8.0-8.5	
Ammonia (NH ₃)	0 ppm	0 ppm	Near Zero	
Nitrite (NO ₂)	0-100 ppb (low values preferred)	0- 100ppb (low values preferred)	Variable (typically < 0.1 ppb)	
Nitrate (NO ₃)	<1 ppm (low values preferred)	< 30 ppm	Variable (typically < 0.1 ppm)	
Phosphate (PO ₄)	< 0.05 ppm	< 0.2 ppm	0.005 ppm	
Phosphorous	< 20.0 ppb	< 100 ppb	2 ppb	
Alkalinity	8-12 dKH (142-215ppm)	8-12 dKH (142-215ppm)	7dKH (125 ppm)	
Calcium	380-450 ppm	350-450 ppm	380-420 ppm	
Magnesium	1,250-1,350 ppm	1,150-1,350 ppm	1,280 ppm	
Iodine	0.06-0.10 ppm	0.04-0.10 ppm	0.06 ppm	
Potassium	380-400 ppm	380-400 ppm	400 ppm	
Strontium	8-14ppm	4-10 ppm	8-10 ppm	
Silica	0.06-2 ppm	< 3 ppm	< 0.06- 2.7 ppm	
ORP	250-400 mV	250-400 mV	Variable	
Iron	0.1 -0.3 ppm	0.1 -0.3 ppm	0.00006 ppm	
Boron	< 10 ppm	< 10 ppm	4.4 ppm	

 = Hanna Instruments Product Available

ppm = parts per million **ppb** = parts per billion **dKH** = degrees Karbonathärte hardness

*Note that values for natural coral reefs are based on typical surface ocean value and are subject to variation