

# Pond Test Strips

## How to Test

Dip the test strip into the water and move it 2 or 3 times. Shake off excess water and immediately compare the chlorine test field with scale. Wait approximately 1 minute and compare the other test fields with the scales on the tube.

## Nitrite (NO<sub>2</sub>-) / Nitrate (NO<sub>3</sub>-)

As part of the nitrogen cycle in your pond/lake organic material that contains nitrogen, such as bird/fish waste, uneaten food, dead plants/ algae, along with waste excreted directly by the fish, degrades to produce nitrite and finally nitrate.

Nitrate in concentrations greater than 50mg/l can be harmful to fish and promote algae growth.

Nitrite in concentrations greater than 1mg/l and if present for extended periods for extended periods, is also harmful to fish.

When Nitrite or Nitrate concentrations are too high the only course of action is to flush the system with clean water.

## General Hardness (GH)

Favourable GH values are between 4° and 10° dH. GH represents the concentration of calcium and magnesium salts.

If GH and KH levels are too high add water to the pond/lake.

If levels are low add SILTEX or GYPSUM.

## Carbonate Hardness (KH)

Favourable KH values are between 3° and 10° dH. The KH represents the bicarbonate concentration, which acts as a pH buffer.

If the KH level is too low add SILTEX or GYPSUM.

## pH

The pH value of water is a measure of the degree of acidity or alkalinity. A pH value between 6.5 and 8.5 will be tolerated by every species of pond fish.

Algae growth can cause wide diurnal fluctuations in pH and in such situations effective algal control should be carried out. AJS Fisheries can supply algae control products and services.

## Help

If you have concerns over the water quality in your pond/lake contact the Environment Agency or AJS Fisheries for further help.

AJS Fisheries 01476 870647

