

Ideal Parameters for Reef Aquariums

Parameter	Aquarium Recommendations	Ocean Values
²⁰ Ca Calcium	380 - 450 ppm	420 ppm
KH Alkalinity	8 - 12 dKH / 2.86 - 4.29 meq/L	7 dKH / 2.5 meq/L
¹² Mg Magnesium	1200 - 1400 ppm	1280 ppm
^{PO} ₄ Phosphate	0.01 – 0.03 (<i>Preferred</i>) / 0.01 – 0.1 ppm (<i>Tolerable</i>)	0.005 ppm
^{NO} ₃ Nitrate	1 – 10 ppm (<i>Preferred</i>) / 1 – 20 ppm (<i>Tolerable</i>)	Less than 0.1 ppm (<i>typical but varies</i>)
^{NO} ₂ Nitrite	0.0 ppm typically	Less than 0.0001 ppm (<i>typical but varies</i>)
^{NH} ₃ Ammonia	0 ppm	Less than 0.1 ppm (<i>typical but varies</i>)
Salinity	1.023 - 1.026 SG / 32 - 35 ppt	1.025 - 1.027 SG / 34 - 36 ppt
Temperature	76° - 80° (<i>Must be kept stable</i>)	Variable
pH	8.1 - 8.3 (<i>Preferred</i>) / 7.8 - 8.4 (<i>Tolerable</i>)	8.1 - 8.3 (<i>Varies in lagoons</i>)
ORP	250 - 400 mV	Variable
⁵³ I Iodine	0.06 ppm	0.06 ppm (<i>Varies in lagoons</i>)
³⁸ Sr Strontium	7 - 9 ppm	8 ppm
²⁶ Fe Iron	Below Kit Detection	0.000006 ppm
⁵ B Boron	Less than 10 ppm	4.4 ppm
¹⁴ Si Silica	Less than 1 ppm (<i>Lower if diatoms are a problem</i>)	Less than 0.06 - 2.7 ppm