



# NITRITE POISONING

Fish appear oxygen-starved even though the filter, air stone, and surface movement look normal.

**KEEP OXYGEN MOVING. TEST NITRITE NOW.**



**DBC**  
**AQUATICS**  
RESCUE. SOLVE. PREVENT.

## AT A GLANCE

O2

### ADD OXYGEN

Support fish while the water is corrected.

NO2

### TEST NITRITE

Any reading above 0 ppm matters.

0

### STOP FEEDING

Reduce the waste load for now.

FILTER

### PROTECT BACTERIA

The biofilter is part of the rescue.

## NITRITE RESCUE - DO THIS IN ORDER

1

### INCREASE OXYGEN

Aim the filter return upward, add an air stone, and confirm the filter is flowing.

2

### TEST NITRITE NOW

Test nitrite and ammonia. Check temperature and pH. Repeat an impossible-looking result with clean equipment.

3

### STOP FEEDING

Pause food while the cycle is unstable. Remove obvious waste or a dead organism without tearing the tank apart.

4

### MAKE ONE CORRECTION

If nitrite is detected and fish are distressed, use conditioned, temperature-matched water for a controlled partial change.

5

### PROTECT THE FILTER

Keep biological media wet and oxygenated. If flow is blocked, rinse gently only in removed aquarium water.

6

### RETEST AND INVESTIGATE

Test after the correction and until nitrite stays at 0 ppm. Find the event that overloaded or damaged the cycle.

## DO NOT DO THIS

- ✗ Do not medicate first.
- ✗ Do not replace the filter cartridge.
- ✗ Do not deep-clean the whole aquarium.
- ✗ Do not add new fish or extra food.
- ✗ Do not trust bubbles without testing.
- ✗ Do not use one universal salt dose.

## SIGNS YOU MAY SEE

- Fast breathing
- Surface hanging
- Weakness
- Poor balance
- Pale or dark color
- Several fish affected

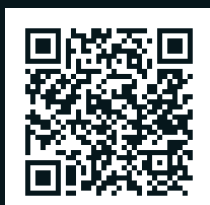
## DBC RESCUE METHOD

**Stop › Observe › Test › Diagnose › Act › Monitor › Prevent**

## EMERGENCY TARGETS

|         |                                   |
|---------|-----------------------------------|
| Nitrite | 0 ppm                             |
| Ammonia | 0 ppm                             |
| Surface | Steady movement during recovery.  |
| Filter  | Flowing; media wet and protected. |

SCAN FOR FULL GUIDE



[dbcaquatics.com/nitrite-rescue](https://dbcaquatics.com/nitrite-rescue)

## GET EXPERT HELP IF...

- Fish collapse or cannot stay upright.
- Severe gasping continues after oxygen and correction.
- Nitrite persists or multiple fish keep dying.

**Contact an aquatic veterinarian when distress is severe or continuing.**