

Ammonia, Nitrites, & Nitrates

Now that you have a good understanding of pH and the difference between acids and bases, it's time to look at other ways the quality of water can be changed for better or for worse. Amounts of ammonia, nitrites, and nitrates can drastically affect levels of nitrogen in water and can make it inhabitable or habitable (not livable or livable). It will be your job to discover which of these chemicals pose a threat and which are needed for life to thrive.

Use the following links to gather info about ammonia, nitrites, and nitrates.

Ammonia - <http://water.epa.gov/scitech/swguidance/standards/criteria/aqlife/ammonia/upload/Aquatic-Life-Ambient-Water-Quality-Criteria-for-Ammonia-Freshwater-2013-Fact-Sheet-April.pdf>

Nitrites and Nitrates – <http://water.usgs.gov/edu/nitrogen.html>
<http://www2.ca.uky.edu/wkrec/NitritePonds.pdf>

Answer the following questions for each substance in the table below. Please number each question as you answer them:

1. What is the substance? (provide some background)
2. How does it get into water?
3. What problems can occur because of this substance?
4. What benefits can occur because of this substance?

Substance	Research (include your sources)

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Explain the relationship between ammonia, nitrites, and nitrates. You may draw a diagram to help support your explanation.