



SEA DWELLERS AND FRIENDS

ANGOLA, IN
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COPPER TECH SHEET

Copper is toxic to invertebrates. Some invertebrates are affected more than others. Low levels of copper can be fatal to xenia, star polyps, soft corals, shrimp, and snails. Hermit crabs, sea urchins, and LPS corals can endure a little higher levels of copper. Copper is not toxic to fish at low levels.

Copper comes from well water, chemical additions in municipal water supplies, the inside of your water heater, and from your plumbing. Water softeners do remove copper if they are functioning properly. Copper is also used as a medicine to cure parasite infestations and to kill algae.

We have helped more than a few customers identify that there is copper in their tap water. You probably have copper in your water if snails suddenly die after a water change. You probably have copper in your water if soft corals and shrimp do not live very long in your aquarium. The question can be answered with a quick test that takes 5 minutes to perform. Will we perform this test for free. Just bring us a sample of your tap water. We also sell copper test kits at a very reasonable price if you would like to purchase one for yourself.

Here are some possible solutions if you find that there is copper in your tap water:

- Activated carbon, Chemi-Pure, and Bio-Chem Zorb all remove copper (and many other harmful chemicals) from water. Many of you already use these products in your aquarium. You must remove the copper from the water **before** adding it to the aquarium. Filter the water with one of these products for 24 hours before using it in your aquarium.
- Water softeners remove copper from water if they are functioning properly.
- Water from an alternative source can be used. You could get your water from a friend or relative who does not have copper in their water. You could also use reverse osmosis water. This can be purchased from many different places. Reverse osmosis filter are also available. Talk to our staff for directions on how to use reverse osmosis water.

Through our own experiences here at the store we have discovered this simple fact:

“Water quality in the aquarium can be increased by using quality water to fill the aquarium.”