



## Information Sheet "Salting Your Pond"

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# Treating Your Pond With Salt

## 1) Why should I use salt in my holding systems?

- Salt is an excellent start in regards to controlling most of the common microscopic parasites that can harm koi and goldfish. At the correct dosage it will control Ich, Chilodinella, Costia, and Trichodina.
- It protects fish from poisonous nitrites that accumulate early in the season when filters are not yet mature.
- Salt acts as a general tonic for fish under stress from shipping.
- There are some Japanese strains of Costia and Trichodina that have built up resistance to salt, but we have not seen those on our fish.



## 2) What level do you recommend?

We recommend that you keep levels in your sales tanks between 0.3 and 0.5%, which is equal to approximately 3 to 5 pounds per 100 gallons.

## 3) What kind of salt should I use?

We use plain rock salt or a high percentage water softener. Whatever salt you choose to use, be sure it doesn't contain the anti-caking agent Yellow Prussiate of Soda or YPS. It's been found to be harmful to koi and goldfish.

## 4) How do I measure the salt level?

Inexpensive salinity meters are available for about \$70 to \$80. Drop-type test kits are available for much less



**5) If I keep my tanks salted at this level, will the fish have a problem adjusting to the non-salted water in my customers' ponds?**

Going from salted water to unsalted water will not be harmful to koi or goldfish.

**6) Should I recommend that my customers keep salt in their ponds?**

Healthy ponds with adequate filtration, good water quality, and un-crowded conditions should not need salt on a continual basis. It can be used to treat disease issues, but be aware that it will harm many common pond plants. Salt levels at 0.1% in the spring would detoxify nitrites that tend to build up as filters are cycling.

**7) Are there drawbacks to using salt?**

- At certain, high enough levels, it can harm many plants commonly used in water gardens.
- It's inadvisable to use salt in combination with Formalin. Formalin mixed water containing more than 0.1% salt can be harmful to koi and goldfish.
- In pond situations, be aware that salt may kill algae, causing a drop in dissolved oxygen from decay of the algae. Be sure circulation is adequate.
- Trapdoor snails cannot tolerate salt.