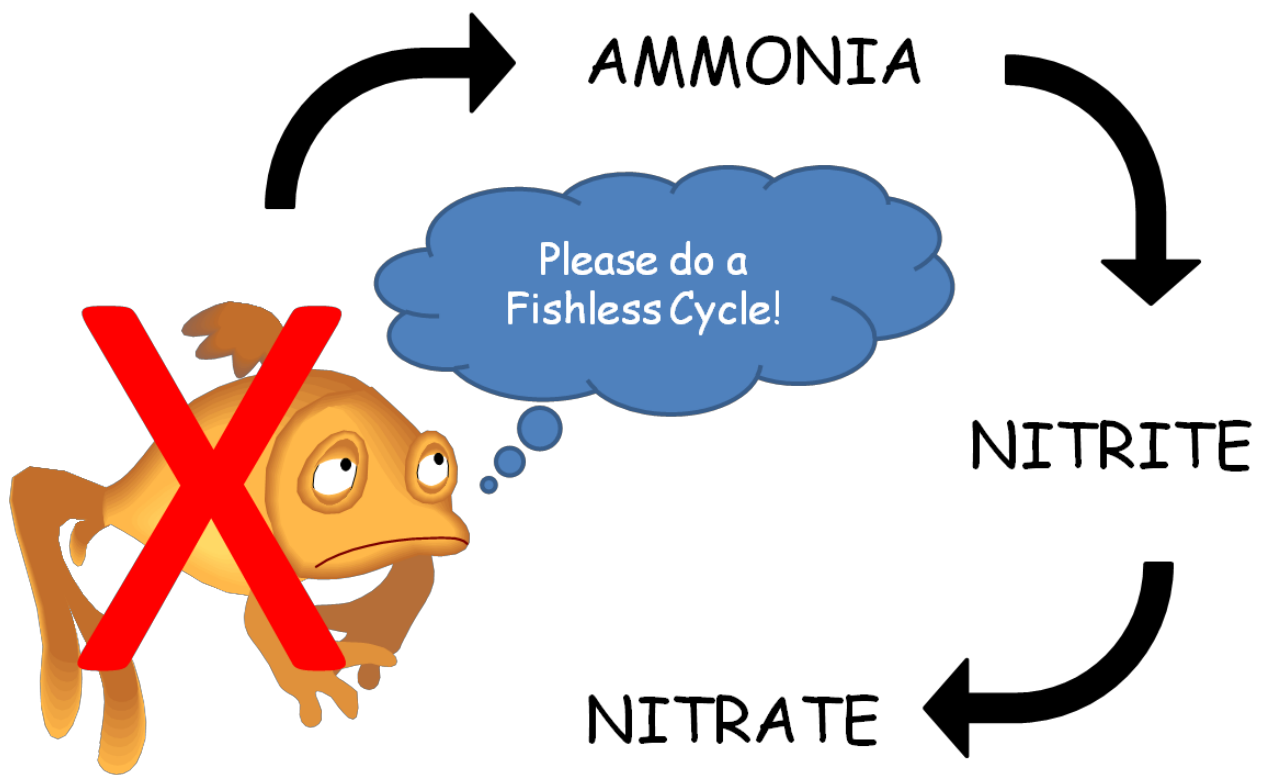


# FISHLESS CYCLE DIARY TEMPLATE



# WHAT YOU'LL NEED

**Your tank and filter, and any tank decor** - If you are going to be keeping tropical fish then you will also need a heater.

**Tap water conditioner** - Please make sure the brand you choose treats chlorine AND chloramines if your water supplier uses both!

**A good liquid-based water test kit** - This should include tests for Ammonia ( $\text{NH}_3$ ), Nitrite ( $\text{NO}_2$ ), Nitrate ( $\text{NO}_3$ ) and pH. Paper test strips are not reliable enough and usually do not include an ammonia test!

**GH and KH test kit** - A separate liquid test kit for these is also useful, as knowing how hard your water is will assist you in choosing suitable fish!

**A source of ammonia** - Either liquid ammonia (available from places like Boots and Homebase. Please make sure it is pure ammonia and has no added perfumes or colourants etc.), fish food, a prawn or a proprietary cycling kit such as Waterlife's Biomature.

**Dosing syringe** - Baby medicine syringes, or droppers work well for dosing small amounts.

**Calculator** - For working out how much ammonia to add to top up to your required level.

**This handy guide to record your daily test results!** Just print off as many copies of Page 5 as needed to complete your cycle.

# WHAT TO TEST FOR

**Tap water** - Nitrate, GH and KH can be tested using water straight from the tap.

To test pH, run a cup of water and let it stand for 24 hours (water companies use pH adjusters and these will need time to dissipate to give a true pH reading for your tap water).

**Tank water** - We recommend you use 3ppm of ammonia for your cycle. If you are using liquid ammonia, use your calculator and the formula below to work out how much ammonia you need to bring your tank up to that level, or use our easy [online calculator](#).

Test daily for ammonia, nitrite and nitrate. If your ammonia drops, add more of your chosen ammonia source to raise it back up to your required level. Liquid ammonia users can use the formula or [online calculator](#) to work out how much to add.

Monitor temperature and pH too, as fluctuations in these can slow or even stall your cycle if they cause bacteria to die off. Anything out of the ordinary? Use the Notes section!

## CYCLING DETAILS

Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Finished: \_\_\_\_\_

Method Used: \_\_\_\_\_



### HANDY HINT:

If using liquid ammonia (10% by weight ammonia) -  
Adding 1ml of ammonia to 100l of water  
will give you 1ppm

# TANK DETAILS

Tank Dimensions: \_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_

Tank Volume: \_\_\_\_\_

**HANDY HINT:**

$$\frac{L \times W \times H \text{ (cm)}}{1000} = \text{Volume (l)}$$

BUT it's a good idea to reduce this volume by 10% to allow for tank decor!

Tank Temperature: \_\_\_\_\_

# TAP WATER PARAMETERS

	Straight from the tap	After standing for 24 hours
pH		
Nitrate		
GH		
KH		

# FISHLESS CYCLE, DAY \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

Temperature	
pH	
Ammonia (NH <sub>3</sub> )	
Nitrite (NO <sub>2</sub> )	
Nitrate (NO <sub>3</sub> )	
Amount of Ammonia Added	
New Ammonia Concentration	

**NOTES:**