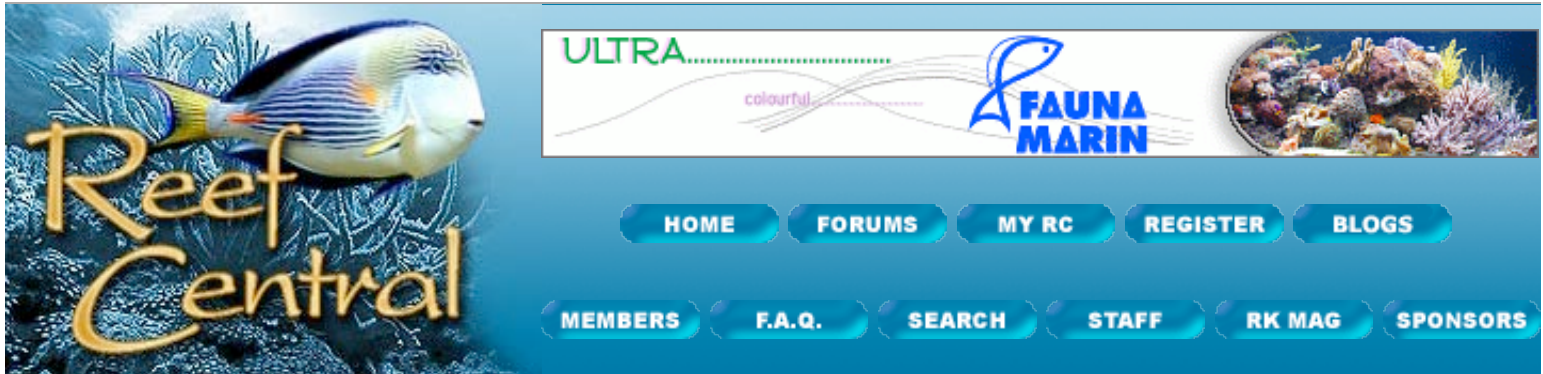


This is Google's cache of <http://reefcentral.com/forums/showthread.php?s=&postid=14049205>. It is a snapshot of the page as it appeared on Jun 3, 2009 03:14:42 GMT. The [current page](#) could have changed in the meantime. [Learn more](#)

These search terms are highlighted: **concentrations co2 home**

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[Reef Central Online Community](#) > [General Interest Forums](#) > [New to the Hobby](#) > **Concentrations of CO2 in the home**

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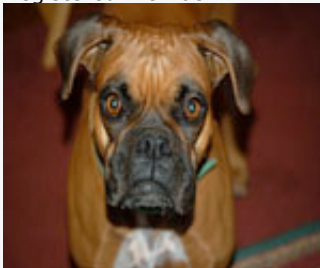
Author	Thread	new thread	post reply
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12/14/2008 05:46 AM

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quote

**mmedeiros2**  
Registered Member



Registered: Apr 2008  
Location: Dartmouth, Ma.  
Occupation: Electronic Technician  
Posts: 354

**Concentrations of CO2 in the home**

I know most people do not have access to **CO2** monitors for air quality since they are quite expensive. \$500 to \$1000  
I work with gas detection for a living, and have access to all air monitors. I had past low ph problems and did solve it by airing the tank with outside air. I also took **CO2** measurments of my **home** at different times, and thought I would share the results so that people with low ph problems can see why. These results were taken with an RKI RI-215A infrared **CO2** monitor that was recently calibrated. My levels are out of control.

**Home** size is a small ranch which contributes to the problem.  
40' by 22'

All breathing animals include: 2 - adults, 2 - cats, and 1 - Boxer dog.  
With all the interior doors open and the exterior doors closed for a few hours the levels in the living room and my bedroom at bedtime were 1850 PPM. (Not good)

The basement where the furnace is was 950 PPM.

The next test was taken in the morning.

In the living room, with all interior doors open, except my bedroom door, where the 2 - cats, 1 - dog, and my girlfriend slept, the reading was 2380 PPM in the AM. (Not good)

In my 12' by 12' bedroom with the door closed all night, where I slept alone, the reading was 3060 PPM and I had a slight headache. (NOT GOOD AT ALL) More problems.

This goes to show that finding out about low PH in the aquarium can lead to other problems. I am now looking into heat exchangers. I verified the accuracy of the monitor after testing, and all was fine.

The toxicity concerns of **CO2** gas is listed below.

The levels of **CO2** in the air and potential health problems are:

- 250 - 350 ppm – background (normal) outdoor air level
- 350- 1,000 ppm - typical level found in occupied spaces with good air exchange.
- 1,000 – 2,000 ppm - level associated with complaints of drowsiness and poor air.
- 2,000 – 5,000 ppm – level associated with headaches, sleepiness, andstagnant, stale, stuffy air. Poor concentration, loss of attention, increased heartrate and slight nausea may also be present.
- >5,000 ppm – Exposure may lead to serious oxygen deprivation resulting inpermanent brain damage, coma and even death.

And I thought the low PH was an issue.

---

One must always be aware for the unexpected.

Mike

*Hobby Experience:* Many years fresh / New to Marine / FOWLR / Soon a 75 Gal.  
*Current Tanks:* 10 gal. / AquaClear 30 / No Skimmer / 3 Lbs. LR / 1/2" LS / 1-Clown / 1- Yel. Tail Damsel / 1-Peppermint Shrimp / 2-Hermits

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12/14/2008 06:19 AM

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**mg426**

wiseguy

Registered: Jan 2006  
Location: maryland  
Occupation: Mechanic  
Posts: 6775

Holy cow, I knew that **CO2** messed with our tanks but Dang that is downright scary. My system has a Pinpoint monitor to measure my PH. I can honestly say that when I have several people over(like to watch a football game or something) I have observed a big drop in my PH???

---

I found a way to make a small fortune running a reef tank. Start with a large fortune. Unofficial President of the SEACLONE haters club

*Hobby Experience:* 5 yrs FW 8 years SW 6 years reef  
*Current Tanks:* 125 mixed reef 110 lbs LR, 1x250watt XM 20K MH 2x175watt XM 20K MH on Magetics 2X96 watt actinic PC, 220 watt VHO actinic, 30 gallon refugium, closed loop system powered by Sequence Dart MSX 200 skimmer 38 gallon sump, Oceansmotions squirt  
*Interests:* drag racing, reefing, history, science

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12/14/2008 07:16 AM

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**Playa-1**

Don't B Haten



That's very interesting. I'm now curious how my **co2** is tracking in my **home**.

---

That's what I think and I think I'm right ;-p

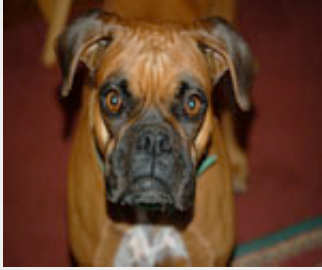
*Hobby Experience:* 3 yrs  
*Current Tanks:* 90 Gal  
*Interests:* ( o Y o ), Reefkeeping, KiteBoarding, Paintball, RC Aircraft, Gaming

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Registered: Jun 2007  
Location: Laguna Niguel, CA  
Occupation: Chemical Whore  
Posts: 4615

12/14/2008 12:35 PM

**mmedeiros2**  
Registered Member



Registered: Apr 2008  
Location: Dartmouth, Ma.  
Occupation: Electronic Technician  
Posts: 354

Sorry if I scared anyone. As far as the ph drop, if I did not airate my 10 gal. tank with fresh air, the swing would go from aprox. 8.0 to 7.6 overnight. With fresh air it swings from 8.05 to 7.96. BIG difference. Keep in mind that have a small house with five sets of lungs, 3-large and 2- small. I am not sure what my oil furnace is contributing yet. It should be zero. I have read that **CO2** can come out of the ground and through cracks in the foundation. This could be the case with the 950 PPM in the basement. Being a tech. for over 30 years causes me to go crazy in trying to solve any problem. This one should send me for a good ride. Here goes more time before the 75 gal. goes in place.

---

One must always be aware for the unexpected.

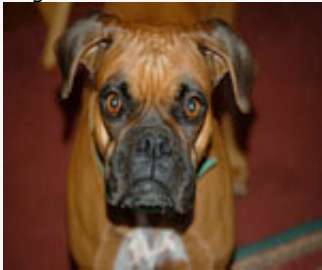
Mike

*Hobby Experience:* Many years fresh / New to Marine / FOWLR / Soon a 75 Gal.  
*Current Tanks:* 10 gal. / AquaClear 30 / No Skimmer / 3 Lbs. LR / 1/2" LS / 1-Clown / 1- Yel. Tail Damsel / 1-Peppermint Shrimp / 2-Hermits

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12/14/2008 02:15 PM

**mmedeiros2**  
Registered Member



Registered: Apr 2008  
Location: Dartmouth, Ma.  
Occupation: Electronic Technician  
Posts: 354

This looks like the only cost efective way to reduce excessive **CO2** build up in the **home**.

<http://www.popularmechanics.com/hom...121.html?page=2>

---

One must always be aware for the unexpected.

Mike

*Hobby Experience:* Many years fresh / New to Marine / FOWLR / Soon a 75 Gal.  
*Current Tanks:* 10 gal. / AquaClear 30 / No Skimmer / 3 Lbs. LR / 1/2" LS / 1-Clown / 1- Yel. Tail Damsel / 1-Peppermint Shrimp / 2-Hermits

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12/14/2008 02:58 PM

**crvz**  
stupendous



Registered: Jul 2005  
Location: houstonia  
Occupation: spacewalks  
Posts: 6060

Interesting data, I've always thought my house is pretty tight and full of **CO2** as well. Whenever we have folks over, the pH in the tank plummets pretty quickly. Pretty weird to see on the aquacontroller, but I've never had an issue with it.

---

You don't win friends with salad.

The red house. Click it!!

*Hobby Experience:* a short 10 years or so  
*Current Tanks:* rectangluar? wet?  
*Interests:* Church, wife, fish, hoops



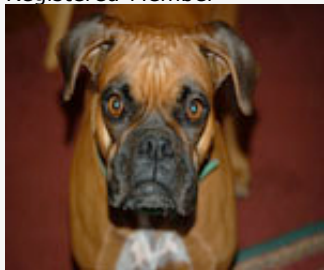
12/14/2008 03:09 PM

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quote

**mmedeiros2**

Registered Member



Registered: Apr 2008  
Location: Dartmouth, Ma.  
Occupation: Electronic Technician  
Posts: 354

I haven't tested with more poeple in the house, but when I walked into my 12' by 12' bedroom, the readings go up quickly. 500 PPM in a couple of minutes without breathing on the detector, but standing a couple feet away. I have read that the human body exhales anywhere from 35,000 to 50,000 PPM of **CO2**.

One must always be aware for the unexpected.

Mike

*Hobby Experience:* Many years fresh / New to Marine / FOWLR / Soon a 75 Gal.  
*Current Tanks:* 10 gal. / AquaClear 30 / No Skimmer / 3 Lbs. LR / 1/2" LS / 1-Clown / 1- Yel. Tail Damsel / 1-Peppermint Shrimp / 2-Hermits

12/14/2008 03:40 PM

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quote

**Jeff**

Moved In



Registered: Jul 2005  
Location: Chicago  
Occupation: Fireman  
Posts: 7792

I havent measured mine but I know that I have the same problem since my ph is always low even when bubbling outside air into the aquarium. I am thinking about adding more houseplants to the aquarium room.

Be safe.  
IWNFT343F

*Hobby Experience:* Marine and reef since 1988  
*Current Tanks:* 250 gallon reef system on the second floor of an old house. Cross your fingers.  
*Interests:* Family, sleeping, eating, and sleeping



12/14/2008 06:36 PM

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quote

**GeoffM1968**

Premium Member

Registered: Nov 2008  
Location: Tampa, FL  
Occupation: HR  
Posts: 113

+1 Jeff's post. The skimmer external air did not cut it for me. I had to install an air pump outside and ran line to both the skimmer line already outside and new air stone in sump area.

Click my red house to see my tank blog

*Hobby Experience:* 5 yrs Saltwater  
*Current Tanks:* 24 gallon Mixed Reef with LM3 (Kalk ATO), RKE, Carbon Reactor, GFO Reactor, Drew's Doser (Vodka Dosing), skimmer, and NEP 6x18w T5s with three MLC Lunar pods.

12/14/2008 06:49 PM

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quote

**thecoralreefer**

Registered Member.



After noticing the same thing I always asumed it was from the tank itself not the air around me.  
But with new windows and a better seal in the house I too wake up with



Registered: Aug 2006  
 Location: west palm beach.fl  
 Occupation: digital electronics  
 Posts: 395

mild headaches. I guess I need this outside air myself.  
 And I thought it was from partying to hard. Ha !!!  
 I never noticed the Ph drop from more people in the room though

If it can be done I will try.  
 If you say it can't I try harder.

*Hobby Experience:* reef and f/o 20yysr  
*Current Tanks:* 29 bioreef  
*Interests:* animals

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12/14/2008 11:35 PM

**Jeff**  
 Moved In



Registered: Jul 2005  
 Location: Chicago  
 Occupation: Fireman  
 Posts: 7792

I still cant figure out why I have a problem. I live in a 100 year old house with drafty single pane windows.

Be safe.  
 IWNFT343F

*Hobby Experience:* Marine and reef since 1988  
*Current Tanks:* 250 gallon reef system on the second floor of an old house. Cross your fingers.  
*Interests:* Family, sleeping, eating, and sleeping

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12/14/2008 11:42 PM

**crvz**  
 stupendous



Registered: Jul 2005  
 Location: houstonia  
 Occupation: spacewalks  
 Posts: 6060

quote:

[Originally posted](#) by Jeff

**I still cant figure out why I have a problem. I live in a 100 year old house with drafty single pane windows.**

Your electric company must love you. 😊

You don't win friends with salad.

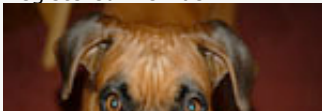
The red house. Click it!!

*Hobby Experience:* a short 10 years or so  
*Current Tanks:* rectangluar? wet?  
*Interests:* Church, wife, fish, hoops

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12/15/2008 12:16 AM

**mmedeiros2**  
 Registered Member



His oil or gas company loves him as well.  
 Jeff, how long are you bubbling outside air for, and are you pumping in enough? 250 gal. is a lot of water. I am just dealing with a 10 gal tank for now. It might take a few day to equalize for a 250 tank. Is your Alk. low as well? I ran into this problem because my ph was low with the Alk. being



Registered: Apr 2008  
 Location: Dartmouth, Ma.  
 Occupation: Electronic Technician  
 Posts: 354

high. I don't have a reef tank, just 1 damsel / 1 clown / and 2 lbs. of LR. It is all well since April. I am starting to think that if you have a reef tank you would have to dose, so the **CO2** bringing the ph down won't effect much because of the dosing cranking it back up. Am I right by saying this?

One must always be aware for the unexpected.

Mike

*Hobby Experience:* Many years fresh / New to Marine / FOWLR / Soon a 75 Gal.  
*Current Tanks:* 10 gal. / AquaClear 30 / No Skimmer / 3 Lbs. LR / 1/2" LS / 1-Clown / 1- Yel. Tail Damsel / 1-Peppermint Shrimp / 2-Hermits

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12/15/2008 12:17 AM

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**WaterKeeper**

Bogus Information Expert



2,000 – 5,000 ppm – level associated with headaches, sleepiness, andstagnant, stale, stuffy air. Poor concentration, loss of attention, increased heartrate and slight nausea may also be present.

Above that level an industry had evacuate the area under old OSHA standards. How I think it is 10,000 ppm over the course of a work day and 30,000 ppm short term.

"Leading the information hungry reefer down the road to starvation"

Tom

*Hobby Experience:* Nearly 30 years in SW and a little over 11 years in Reef Tanks (and Still waiting on the OTS to strike)  
*Current Tanks:* 130 Now out of service and a 29  
*Interests:* Reef and ridding the world of unsightly Newbies

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12/15/2008 12:25 AM

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**Jeff**

Moved In



Registered: Jul 2005  
 Location: Chicago  
 Occupation: Fireman  
 Posts: 7792



quote:

[Originally posted](#) by *mmedeiros2*

**His oil or gas company loves him as well. Jeff, how long are you bubbling outside air for, and are you pumping in enough? 250 gal. is a lot of water. I am just dealing with a 10 gal tank for now. It might take a few day to equalize for a 250 tank. Is your Alk. low as well? I ran into this problem because my ph was low with the Alk. being high. I don't have a reef tank, just 1 damsel / 1 clown / and 2 lbs. of LR. It is all well since April. I am starting to think that if you have a reef tank you would have to dose, so the **CO2** bringing the ph down won't effect much because of the dosing cranking it back up. Am I right by saying this?**

I'm running the largest Whisper air pump into an airstone 24/7 (outside air) and dosing kalk. I still get a ph of around 8.05 during the day and 7.7-7.8 at night. My alk runs high, around 10-11 dkh. If I open the windows

(spring/fall) I run 8.1 during the day.

---


Be safe.  
IWNFT343F

*Hobby Experience:* Marine and reef since 1988  
*Current Tanks:* 250 gallon reef system on the second floor of an old house. Cross your fingers.  
*Interests:* Family, sleeping, eating, and sleeping

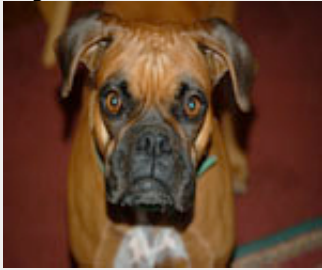
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12/15/2008 01:01 AM

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**mmedeiros2**  
Registered Member



Registered: Apr 2008  
Location: Dartmouth, Ma.  
Occupation: Electronic Technician  
Posts: 354

My ph is also 8.05 in the day and 7.95 in the am. I have not yet tried to get the ca. - mag. - alk. balanced yet. I am waiting on a cal. & mag. test kit. It seem good like this though.

Waterkeeper, check it out.

$5000 \text{ PPM} = \text{TWA} / 30,000 \text{ PPM} = \text{STEL} / 40,000 \text{ PPM} = \text{IDLH}$

There are claims of what you stated where 2,000 – 5,000 ppm – level associated with headaches, sleepiness, and stagnant, stale, stuffy air. Poor concentration, loss of attention, increased heartrate and slight nausea may also be present. But yet you can be exposed to 5000 PPM 8 hrs. a day, 5 days a week and be affected. I think that some of the people doing these tests should cut back on the amount of crack that they are smoking.

[www.cdc.gov/niosh/npg/npqd0103.html](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npg/npqd0103.html)

---

One must always be aware for the unexpected.


Mike

*Hobby Experience:* Many years fresh / New to Marine / FOWLR / Soon a 75 Gal.  
*Current Tanks:* 10 gal. / AquaClear 30 / No Skimmer / 3 Lbs. LR / 1/2" LS / 1-Clown / 1- Yel. Tail Damsel / 1-Peppermint Shrimp / 2-Hermits

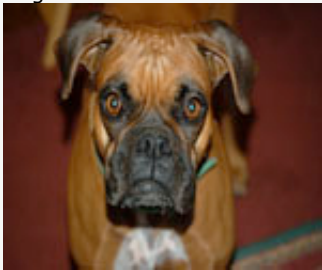
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12/15/2008 01:03 AM

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**mmedeiros2**  
Registered Member



Registered: Apr 2008  
Location: Dartmouth, Ma.  
Occupation: Electronic Technician  
Posts: 354

and NOT be affected (ABOVE)

---

One must always be aware for the unexpected.


Mike

*Hobby Experience:* Many years fresh / New to Marine / FOWLR / Soon a 75 Gal.  
*Current Tanks:* 10 gal. / AquaClear 30 / No Skimmer / 3 Lbs. LR / 1/2" LS / 1-Clown / 1- Yel. Tail Damsel / 1-Peppermint Shrimp / 2-Hermits

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12/15/2008 01:15 AM

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**WaterKeeper**  
Bogus Information Expert

I knew the 5000 ppm was in there somewhere as the alarm system at a brewery I worked at would trigger a full alarm at that level. CO<sub>2</sub> is a major



Registered: Oct 2000  
 Location: SW Ohio  
 Occupation: Semi-retired analytical chemist and lab director  
 Posts: 14932



issue at a brewery.

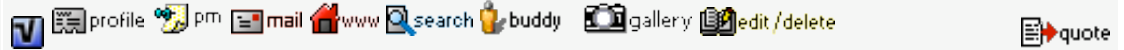
"Leading the information hungry reefer down the road to starvation"

Tom

*Hobby Experience:* Nearly 30 years in SW and a little over 11 years in Reef Tanks (and Still waiting on the OTS to strike)  
*Current Tanks:* 130 Now out of service and a 29  
*Interests:* Reef and ridding the world of unsightly Newbies

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12/31/2008 03:21 PM



**carman9941**  
 Premium Member

Registered: May 2006  
 Location: Cleveland  
 Occupation:  
 Posts: 684

Great Thread!!!!, I think it should be a sticky and thank you for sharing this IMPORTANT info with us mmedeiros2 and waterkeeper

*Hobby Experience:* 10 Years

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12/31/2008 03:31 PM



**Michael**  
 New To The Hobby Member



Registered: Jan 2008  
 Location: Gloucester, England,UK  
 Occupation: Electrician and devoted liverpool football club supporter and obsessive fan for 40 years.  
 Posts: 5553

yep good info, i know **co2** is effecting my ph, its winter here and ive just temporarily added a 2nd skimmer to maintain the ph, it got as low as 7.7 at 1 point, its stable at 8.1 now, im pretty sure the c02 from the heating and no windows in the house open are to blame

MY Warmest Regards and Best Wishes to all,

MIKE (from England)

[For My tank spec, click on the little red house]

*Hobby Experience:* (around 30 years ish fish only and most types of aquaria) full blown reef since 2007  
*Current Tanks:* 92 gallon corner tank,auto top off,v800 skimmer,T5+LED lighting,13.5 gallon sump,2xtunze 6025s,3x koralia 2s,1 maxi-jet 1200, 115 pounds fiji LR , 1.5" aragonite sand, phosban reactor,3 fish,18 corals and 2 handfuls of cuc, [40x in flow]  
*Interests:* liverpool football club / fishkeeping and gloucester rugby club

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12/31/2008 03:45 PM



**WaterKeeper**  
 Bogus Information Expert

Easy to solve. You just make up an huge tank of KW and bubble the room air through it to remove the carbon dioxide. 🎁



Registered: Oct 2000  
 Location: SW Ohio  
 Occupation: Semi-retired analytical chemist and lab director  
 Posts: 14932



You know that is a pollution control technology I don't quite fathom. To make calcium oxide one takes limestone, calcium carbonate, and heats it to remove the carbon dioxide. Now that means the carbon dioxide goes off into the atmosphere. We now use the calcium oxide to absorb the carbon dioxide from say a power plant and end up with, you guessed it, calcium carbonate. I guess you could add enough carbon dioxide to get calcium bicarbonate. That would have 44% more carbon dioxide in it than the original limestone but to make the calcium oxide the limestone was heated to 825°C and all that heat emitted carbon dioxide from the burners. That may cancel out the 44% advantage.

The things I worry about. 😊

---

"Leading the information hungry reefer down the road to starvation"

Tom

*Hobby Experience:* Nearly 30 years in SW and a little over 11 years in Reef Tanks (and Still waiting on the OTS to strike)  
*Current Tanks:* 130 Now out of service and a 29  
*Interests:* Reef and ridding the world of unsightly Newbies

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12/31/2008 04:06 PM

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**Michael**

New To The Hobby Member



Registered: Jan 2008  
 Location: Gloucester, England, UK  
 Occupation: Electrician and devoted liverpool football club supporter and obsessive fan for 40 years.  
 Posts: 5553



quote:

[Originally posted](#) by WaterKeeper

**Easy to solve. You just make up an huge tank of KW and bubble the room air through it to remove the carbon dioxide.** 🍷

**You know that is a pollution control technology I don't quite fathom. To make calcium oxide one takes limestone, calcium carbonate, and heats it to remove the carbon dioxide. Now that means the carbon dioxide goes off into the atmosphere. We now use the calcium oxide to absorb the carbon dioxide from say a power plant and end up with, you guessed it, calcium carbonate. I guess you could add enough carbon dioxide to get calcium bicarbonate. That would have 44% more carbon dioxide in it than the original limestone but to make the calcium oxide the limestone was heated to 825°C and all that heat emitted carbon dioxide from the burners. That may cancel out the 44% advantage.**

The things I worry about. 😊

---

🍷 not only am i confused now tom, im going to bed with a headache, and its new years eve 🍷

---

MY Warmest Regards and Best Wishes to all,

MIKE (from England)

[For My tank spec, click on the little red house]

*Hobby Experience:* (around 30 years ish fish only and most types of aquaria) full blown reef since 2007


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*Interests:* liverpool football club / fishkeeping and gloucester rugby club

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## WaterKeeper

Bogus Information Expert



Registered: Oct 2000  
Location: SW Ohio  
Occupation: Semi-retired analytical chemist and lab director  
Posts: 14932



Happy New Year Mike. Take a nap and you can be up to ring it in.

---

"Leading the information hungry reefer down the road to starvation"

Tom


*Hobby Experience:* Nearly 30 years in SW and a little over 11 years in Reef Tanks (and Still waiting on the OTS to strike)


*Current Tanks:* 130 Now out of service and a 29

*Interests:* Reef and ridding the world of unsightly Newbies

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12/31/2008 04:16 PM

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## Korrine

Premium Member



Registered: Apr 2008  
Location: South Dakota  
Occupation: Wife, mother to 3, employee...I guess it should read occupation(S)  
Posts: 513



What's KW?

---

Click the red house to see my 29 journal.

"You remain responsible.. Forever...For what you have tamed."  
- Antoine de Saint-Exupery

*Hobby Experience:* 15 years fw...read about sw a looonnnggg time, then first salt tank started 3-2009

*Current Tanks:* 29g 8 astraea snails, 6 Nassarius snails, 1 red-banded pistol shrimp w/2 yasha gobies

*Interests:* keeping fish, spending time w/family, almost anything outdoors

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12/31/2008 04:26 PM

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## WaterKeeper

Bogus Information Expert



Kalk Wasser, limewater.

---

"Leading the information hungry reefer down the road to starvation"



Tom

*Hobby Experience:* Nearly 30 years in SW and a little over 11 years in Reef Tanks (and Still waiting on the OTS to strike)  
*Current Tanks:* 130 Now out of service and a 29  
*Interests:* Reef and ridding the world of unsightly Newbies

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Registered: Oct 2000  
Location: SW Ohio  
Occupation: Semi-retired analytical chemist and lab director  
Posts: 14932



All times are GMT. The time now is 04:14 AM.



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