Salt in a Koi Pond

h2koi.com · 2026-08-04

In short

- The best-evidenced use of salt is protection against **nitrite** toxicity. Chloride competes with nitrite for uptake at the gills, which makes salt the standard first response while a struggling filter recovers.
- Roughly **0.1–0.3%** (1–3 kg per 1000 liters, or about 0.8–2.5 lb per 100 gallons) is the general supportive range. Up to about **0.5%** is used for short therapeutic periods, under advice.
- **Salt does not evaporate and is not consumed.** It leaves only by water change or dilution. Dosing repeatedly without measuring is how keepers end up far past where they think they are.
- Calculate from a known pond volume, then verify with a meter. Salt raises conductivity, which is how it is measured in practice.

LEVEL	PPT	PPM	APPROX. PER 100 GAL	TYPICAL USE
0.1%	1	1,000	~0.8 lb (1 kg / 1000 L)	Light supportive level; some nitrite protection
0.2%	2	2,000	~1.7 lb (2 kg / 1000 L)	General tonic and stress support
0.3%	3	3,000	~2.5 lb (3 kg / 1000 L)	Upper end of the general range; nitrite events
0.5%	5	5,000	~4.2 lb (5 kg / 1000 L)	Short therapeutic period only, under advice

Salt does not lower nitrite. It protects the fish from the nitrite that is there. A pond that looks calm on salt can still be sitting on a nitrite reading that would be lethal without it, and the moment that salt is diluted out by water changes the protection goes with it. Treat the salt as a bandage and the filter as the wound.

What H2Koi does and does not do here. H2Koi measures conductivity directly and continuously, and reports salinity and TDS as derived values, so a rising or falling salt level is visible as a trend rather than guessed at between checks. It also measures temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, ammonium (NH_4) and nitrate (NO_3) directly, with ORP available as an option, and reports nitrite, ammonia (NH_3), KH. General hardness (GH) is not reported at all. A self-cleaning wiper keeps the sensors clear.

It is early warning from industrial-grade sensors. It cannot see a parasite, diagnose a disease, or tell you why a koi is flashing. And when you are placing a therapeutic dose, confirm the number with a dedicated salinity meter, because this is a case where the exact figure matters and a derived value is the wrong thing to lean on.