



Free ammonia [NH<sub>3</sub>](#) can go up when you do water changes if the new water has a higher [pH](#).

NH<sub>3</sub> and [NH<sub>4</sub>](#) always form equilibrium with pH and temperature. When you do a water change the new water will often be harder and have a higher pH than the water you are removing. This is because organic acids from fish / plant waste and other biological activity will remove the [water hardness](#) and lower the pH. On changing water a move to a higher pH will unlock NH<sub>4</sub> into NH<sub>3</sub> and the transition can happen in fractions of a second.

If this is the case for you then keep repeating 20% water changes and eventually the NH<sub>3</sub> / NH<sub>4</sub> will start to reduce through dilution.

A [seneye device](#) will report this change in pH, temperature and free ammonia.

**TIP: You can use your seneye to check the water you are using for a water change. It will allow you understand how much pH difference there is between the water you are about to add and the tank water.**

To understand more visit this link on [NH<sub>3</sub>/NH<sub>4</sub>](#).

To understand ways to better reduce NH<sub>3</sub> please click [here](#)..