

Supplements for Saltwater Aquarium Inhabitats: Types and Benefits

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Q. What type of supplements do I need for a saltwater aquarium?

A. The inhabitants of almost any saltwater aquarium require supplements added to the water. The type of supplements depends upon the type of inhabitants. The folks at Kent Marine recommend the following:

Marine Aquarium Containing:	Supplement	Benefit
Small or Large Polyp Stony Corals, Giant Clams, Leather Corals, Polyps, Mushroom Anemones	Calcium	Helps build skeleton
	Strontium	Helps build skeleton
	Magnesium	Helps prevent premature calcium precipitation
	Iodine	Helps prevent damage due to excessive light exposure
	Buffer (Alkalinity)	Helps build skeleton; buffers pH
	Trace Element	Helps facilitate enzymatic and photosynthetic reactions
	Plankton Suspension	Provides nutrients that are not produced by the target organism
	Vitamin	Helps maintain health, color, and facilitates biological reactions
Crustaceans and other Motile Invertebrates	Calcium	Helps build skeleton
	Magnesium	Helps prevent premature calcium precipitation
	Iodine	A component of the animal's exoskeleton; aids in the molting process
	Buffer (Alkalinity)	Buffers pH
	Trace Element	Helps facilitate enzymatic reactions
	Vitamin	Helps maintain health, color, and facilitates biological reactions

Fish-Only	Iodine	Helps prevent health disorders such as goiter
	Buffer (Alkalinity)	Buffers pH
	Trace Element	Helps facilitate enzymatic reactions
	Vitamin	Helps maintain health, color, and facilitates biological reactions