

What is pH? (Potential of Hydrogen)

pH is an expression used to indicate the degree (not quantity) of acidity or alkalinity of a solution . The pH scale ranges from less than 1.0 to 14, with 7.0 being neutral. A pH of 1 expresses a very acidic condition, and a pH of 14 is highly alkaline.

It is important to understand that pH is a measure of intensity, and not capacity; i.e., pH indicates the intensity of alkalinity in the same way temperature tells how hot something is - but not how much heat the substance carries

The pH scale is logarithmic which means that moving a unit either way on the pH scale results in a 10 fold increase in the degree of alkalinity or acidity.

Typical pH values are shown in the chart below

	pH	Product
	0 - 1	Hydrochloric, nitric acid
	1 - 2	Phosphoric Acid
Acidic	2.0	Citrus fruit
	6.5	Milk
Neutral	7.0	
Alkaline	8-9	Floor Finishes
	11.0	Ammonia
	13 - 14	Floor Strippers, Oven Cleaners

Test for pH by moistening the spot with pure water (pH of 7). Blot the area with pH paper and compare the color to the chart to determine whether the spot is acidic or alkaline.

