















# ACIDS, ALKALIS, AND THE pH SCALE

The pH scale is a way of gauging the acidity or alkalinity of a solution. It is calculated using:  $\text{pH} = -\log_{10}[\text{H}^+]$ . Adding an acid to water increases the  $\text{H}^+$  ( $\text{H}_3\text{O}^+$ ) concentration, and decreases the  $\text{OH}^-$  concentration. An alkali does the opposite.

	pH	$\text{H}^+$ CONCENTRATION (in moles per litre)	$\text{OH}^-$ CONCENTRATION (in moles per litre)	EVERYDAY EXAMPLE
<b>ALKALINE</b> Turquoise → Blue → Purple	14	$1 \times 10^{-14}$	1	Drain Cleaner 
	13	$1 \times 10^{-13}$	0.1	Bleach 
	12	$1 \times 10^{-12}$	0.01	Ammonia 
	11	$1 \times 10^{-11}$	0.001	Soap 
	10	$1 \times 10^{-10}$	$1 \times 10^{-4}$	Antacid Tablets 
	9	$1 \times 10^{-9}$	$1 \times 10^{-5}$	Baking Soda 
	8	$1 \times 10^{-8}$	$1 \times 10^{-6}$	Seawater 
<b>NEUTRAL</b> Green	7	$1 \times 10^{-7}$	$1 \times 10^{-7}$	Pure Water 
<b>ACIDIC</b> Red → Orange → Yellow	6	$1 \times 10^{-6}$	$1 \times 10^{-8}$	Urine (average) 
	5	$1 \times 10^{-5}$	$1 \times 10^{-9}$	Black Coffee 
	4	$1 \times 10^{-4}$	$1 \times 10^{-10}$	Tomato Juice 
	3	0.001	$1 \times 10^{-11}$	Soda 
	2	0.01	$1 \times 10^{-12}$	Lemon Juice 
	1	0.1	$1 \times 10^{-13}$	Stomach Acid 
	0	1	$1 \times 10^{-14}$	Battery Acid 