



pH Test Strips – Stability, Accuracy, Expiry Date/Shelf-life

[Click here to Buy pH Test Strips](#) from Indigo® Instruments.

pH test strips and papers are based on acidobasic chemical indicators which change colors in well defined pH ranges & are generally very stable compounds. For this reason, this type of test strips does not come with an explicit expiration date. pH strips and papers are so stable compared to other types of strips, that they are not provided in any sort of special packaging requiring containing dessicants.

The most important restriction is that the strips & their containers be stored away from direct sunlight as this type of exposure will cause fading in both the color chart & the test pad. Any such bleaching caused by sunlight will compromise the calibration of the color chart & the overall reading accuracy of the strips.

Similarly, exposure to high humidity for extended periods can also cause fading in the color charts. It is for this reason that a general minimum expiration of 3 years can be expected if the strips are stored at 10-30 °C in a dry place and away from any chemical fumes in laboratories. The accuracy of pH determination with strips and papers is impacted less by shelf-life than by the liquid being tested.

Our test strips are designed for measuring buffered solutions. In plain water that is weakly buffered, the equilibration of the indicators is reached very slowly, sometimes taking 5 –15 minutes & even then the accuracy with test strips is not high. An even longer reading time can significantly increase accuracy.

Nevertheless, it should be emphasized that even solutions with low buffering capacity can still measured accurately with our pH test strips.

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