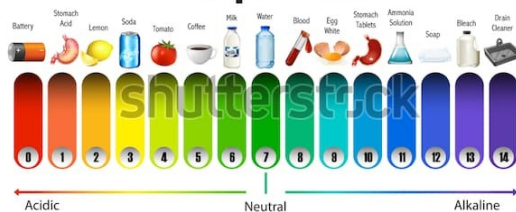


Ocean Acidification:

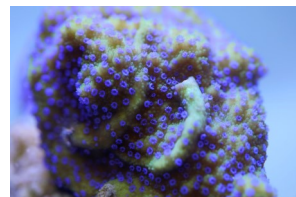
Facts About Ocean Acidification:

- Due to the decreased pH level, coral and animals with shells are having a hard time maintaining and growing their skeletons and shells respectively.
- Water pollutants are a contributing cause. These pollutants include: sewage, pesticides and fertilizers, waste water and chemicals, silt/ dirt and trash.
- Ocean pH averaged about 8.2 over the past million years. Today, it has dropped to about 8.1. This might not seem like a big deal, but it has great effects on the animals living there. It represents approximately a 30 percent increase in acidity.
- Current predictions state that carbon dioxide production will increase. This means the amount of carbon dioxide being absorbed by the ocean will increase; continuing to lower the pH level.

The pH Scale



www.shutterstock.com · 1216954318



Key Terms:

- **pH scale:** Measures how basic or acidic a solution is. The scale ranges from 1, most acidic, to 14, most basic.
- **Ocean acidification:** A decrease in the pH level of ocean water. One cause is due to the ocean absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

How can you help?

- Conserve water (take shorter showers).
- Use less energy (turn off lights or unplug things not in use).
- Refuse plastic (use cloth bags).
- Eat less meat (aim for meatless Mondays).
- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!