
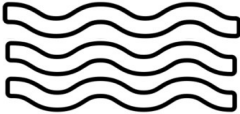



SPS Hard Coral - General Guide

Difficulty:  MED - EXPERT	Water Flow:  MED - V.HIGH	Lighting:  MED - HIGH
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SPS corals ('[Small polyp stony corals](#)') are classified as hard corals with a calcium carbonate based skeleton and small or short polyps. There are a huge variety of different SPS species and variations available. When in a stable environment SPS corals can grow rapidly and produce a kaleidoscope of colours. High end SPS often come in ultra bright rainbow colours. Often called 'twigs' or 'sticks' but some species have plating growth patterns. [SPS are sensitive and can be challenging to keep, definitely not recommended for beginners.](#)

[EXAMPLES OF SPECIES INCLUDE:](#)

Acropora, Montipora, Seriatopora, Pavona, Birds nest, Staghorn & Plate Corals.

[FLOW / WATER MOVEMENT:](#) MEDIUM - HIGH

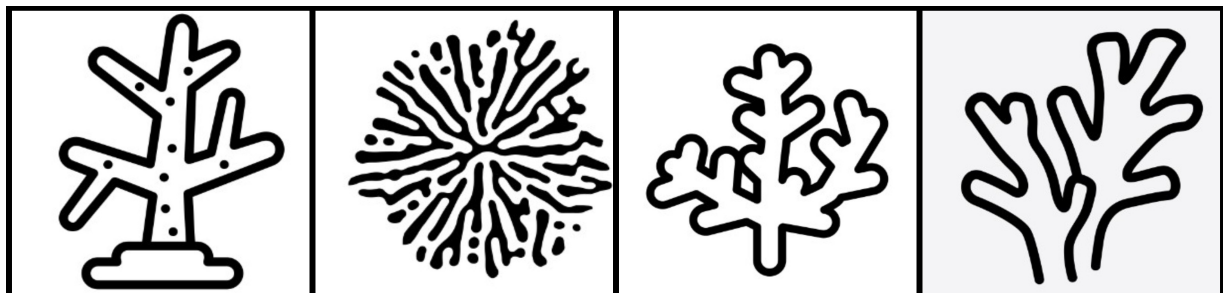
SPS like medium-very high flow. Its very important that sufficient water movement is supplied, this can be achieved with high velocity wavemakers, circulation pumps and gyre generators.

[LIGHTING:](#) HIGH

SPS like bright light! Specialist reef lighting must be supplied. We aim to keep Acropora in a par range of 250-350 and lower light species such as Montipora and Seriatopora in a par range 150-250. Its important that [SPS corals are acclimated to new lighting](#) conditions very slowly or they may bleach. Lighting should be adjusted slowly to avoid shock.

[FEEDING / NUTRIENT LEVEL:](#) SPS can catch micro particulates from the water. Fish waste provides nutrition but we also feed our corals a variety of supplementary liquid and powdered feeds. SPS corals don't tolerate dirty water conditions and although some nitrate and phosphate is required for good health these levels should be kept on the lower end of the spectrum for SPS.

[NOTES:](#) [Water quality is paramount with SPS corals!](#) Calcium, Alkalinity and trace elements must be maintained at the correct levels - this involves regular testing of the water and necessary dosing of depleted elements. Stability is key, sudden changes can kill SPS corals. *As a general guide only - there may be some exceptions to these rules - please research needs of particular species being kept.



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