

Coral Compatibility Guide – Large Polyped Stony (LPS) – Page 1

Aquarists are accustomed to compatibility guides for fish and other marine animals but comprehensive guides on coral compatibility are lacking. Most corals use mechanisms to defend and compete for living space – prompting aquarist requests for compatibility guides focused on how coral behavior affects aquarium placement. Additionally, aquarists want to know the coral behavior to expect and the level of dominance of each coral; which coral will win the battle over space? This compatibility guide of commonly collected corals was compiled using literature review and aquarist experience. It should be viewed as a guide only – please let us know if you have additional information at info@nocoastaquatics.com and we will continue to update the guide.

TYPE OF CORAL		AGGRESSIVENESS OF CORAL			PREFERRED PARAMETERS	AQUARIUM PLACEMENT	
Family	Genus/Species	Dominant	Defensive	Passive	Light/Waterflow	Minimum Spacing	Where in Tank
Dendrophylliidae	Duncanopsammia sp. axifuga Duncan Coral			X	Med/Low Light Med/Low Flow	2 inches	Mid/Bottom of Tank
	Heteropsammia spp. Walking Dendro		X		Medium Light Med/Low Flow	Can Move in Tank	Bottom
Euphyllidae	Catalaphyllia sp. jardinei Elegance Coral	X Tentacles			Medium Light Medium Flow	5 inches	Bottom of Tank
	Euphyllia sp. divisa Frogspawn Coral	X Sweeper Tentacles*			Medium Light Medium Flow	5 inches	All Locations
	Euphyllia sp. ancora Hammer Coral	X Sweeper Tentacles*			Medium Light Medium Flow	5 inches	All Locations
	Euphyllia sp. glabrescans Torch Coral	X Sweeper Tentacles*			Medium Light Medium Flow	5 inches	All Locations
	Euphyllia sp. cristata Grape Coral	X Sweeper Tentacles*			Medium Light Medium Flow	5 inches	All Locations
	Nemanzophyllia sp. turbida Fox Coral			X	Low Light Low Flow	3 inches	All Locations
	Plerogyra sp. sinuosa Bubble Coral	X Sweeper Tentacles*			Medium Light Low Flow	4 inches	Mid/Bottom of Tank
Faviidae	Caulastrea sp. Bullseye Coral			X	Low/Med Light Medium Flow	2 inches	Middle of Tank
	Caulastrea sp. furcata Candy Cane Coral			X	Medium Light Medium Flow	2 inches	Middle of Tank
	Cyphastrea Lesser Knob Coral			X	Medium Light Medium Flow	2 inches	Bottom of Tank
	Diploastrea sp. heliopora Hexagon Brain		X Sweeper Tentacles*		Medium Light Medium Flow	3 inches	Mid/Bottom of Tank
	Echinopora Hedgehog Coral			X	High Light High Flow	2 inches	Middle of Tank
	Favia spp. Brain Coral	X Sweeper Tentacles*			Medium Light Medium Flow	5 inches	Mid/Bottom of Tank
	Favites spp. Brain Coral	X Sweeper Tentacles*			Medium Light Medium Flow	5 inches	Mid/Bottom of Tank

* **Sweeper Tentacles** - Long, thin specialized tentacles with nematocysts that sting other organisms.

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Family	Genus/Species	Dominant	Defensive	Passive	Light/Waterflow	Minimum Spacing	Where in Tank
Faviidae (Continued)	Goniastrea spp.		X Sweeper Tentacles*		Medium Light Medium Flow	3 inches	Mid/Bottom of Tank
	Leptastrea spp.		X Sweeper Tentacles*		Medium Light Medium Flow	3 inches	Mid/Bottom of Tank
	Oulophyllia spp. Ridged Brain Coral		X Sweeper Tentacles*		Medium Light Medium Flow	3 inches	Bottom of Tank
	Plesiastrea spp. Pineapple Brain		X Sweeper Tentacles*		Medium Light Medium Flow	3 inches	Mid/Bottom of Tank
	Platygyra spp. Brain Worm Coral		X Sweeper Tentacles*	X	Medium Light Medium Flow	3 inches	Bottom of Tank
Fungiidae	Cycloseris spp. Plate Coral		X Sweeper Tentacles*		Medium Light Medium Flow	3 inches	Bottom of Tank
	Fungia spp. Disk Corals		X (Mucous)		Medium Light Medium Flow	3 inches	Bottom of Tank
	Heliofungia spp. Long Tentacle Plate	X Sweeper Tentacles*			Medium Light Medium Flow	5 inches	Bottom of Tank
	Herpolitha sp. limax Tongue Coral		X (Moves)		High Light Low Flow	3 inches	Middle of Tank
Merulinidae	Merulina spp. Ruffled Coral			X	High/Med Light Medium Flow	2 inches	Middle of Tank
Mussidae	Acanthastrea sp. echinata Meat Coral		X Sweeper Tentacles* Filaments**		Medium Light Low Flow	3 inches	Mid/Bottom of Tank
	Acanthastrea sp. lordhowensis “The Lord”		X Sweeper Tentacles* Filaments**		Medium Light Low Flow	3 inches	Mid/Bottom of Tank
	Blastomussa spp. Branched Cup		X Sweeper Tentacles*		Medium Light Medium Flow	3 inches	Mid/Bottom of Tank
	Cynarina spp. Cats Eye Coral			X	Low Light Low Flow	2 inches	Mid/Bottom of Tank
	Lobophyllia spp. Lobed Brain Coral		X Sweeper Tentacles*		Medium Light Low Flow	3 inches	Mid/Bottom of Tank
	Micromussa spp. Pineapple Coral		X Sweeper Tentacles*		Medium Light Low Flow	3 inches	Mid/Bottom of Tank
	Scolymia spp. Doughnut Coral			X	Low Light Low Flow	2 inches	Mid/Bottom of Tank

* **Sweeper Tentacles** - Long, thin specialized tentacles with nematocysts that sting other organisms.

****Mesenterial Filaments** - Filaments extending from the coral stomach, killing other organisms through a digestive-like process.

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Mussidae (Continued)	Symphyllia spp. Closed Brain Coral			X	Medium Light Low Flow	2 inches	Mid/Bottom of Tank
Oculinidae	Galaxea sp. fascicularis Tooth or Galaxy Coral	X Sweeper Tentacles*			Medium Light Low Flow	5 inches	Top of Tank
Pectiniidae	Echinophyllia sp. aspera Chalice		X Sweeper Tentacles*		High Light Medium Flow	3 inches	All Locations
	Oxypora spp. Easter Egg Chalice		X Sweeper Tentacles*		Medium Light Medium Flow	3 inches	Bottom of Tank
	Mycedium spp. Green Eyed Cup Coral		X Sweeper Tentacles*		High Light Medium Flow	3 inches	All Locations
	Pectinia spp. Spiny Cup Coral			X	Medium Light Medium Flow	2 inches	All Locations
Poritidae	Alveopora spp. Flowerpot Coral		X Defending Polyps		Medium Light Low Flow	3 inches	Bottom of Tank
	Goniopora spp. Flowerpot Coral	X Sweeper Polyps			Medium Light Medium Flow	5 inches	Middle of Tank
Trachyphylliidae	Trachyphyllia spp. Open Brain Coral, Wellsophyllia			X	Low Light Low Flow	2 inches	Bottom of Tank

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