

Coral Compatibility Guide – Small Polyped Stony (SPS)

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 |
| Acroporidae | Acropora sp. millepora Cluster Coral | | X Mesenterial Filaments** | | High Light Strong Flow | 3 inches | Top/Mid Tank |
| | Acropora spp. All Other Acropora | | | X Overgrowth of Colonies | High Light Strong Flow | 2 inches | Top/Mid Tank |
| | Astreopora spp. Starflower Coral | | | X | Medium Light Medium Flow | 3 inches | Top/Mid Tank |
| | Montipora spp. All Montipora | | | X | High Light Medium Flow | 2 inches | Top/Mid Tank |
| Agariciidae | Leptoseria sp. foliosa Wrinkle Coral | | X Sweeper Tentacles* | | Medium Light Strong Flow | 3 inches | Mid Tank |
| | Pavona sp. decussantus or sp. frondifera Leaf Coral | | X Sweeper Tentacles* Filaments** | | High Light Strong Flow | 3 inches | Bottom of Tank |
| | Pachyseris sp. rugosa Elephant Skin Coral | | | X | High Light Strong Flow | 2 inches | Top/Mid Tank |
| Astrocoeniidae | Stylcoeniella sp. cocosensis Thorn Coral | | | X | Medium Light Medium Flow | 2 inches | Mid Tank |
| Dendrophylliidae | Turbinaria sp. peltata Pagoda Coral | | | X Mucus Producing | Medium Light Medium Flow | 3 inches | Mid Tank |
| | Turbinaria spp. All Other Turbinaria | | | X Mucus Producing | Medium Light Medium Flow | 3 inches | Mid Tank |
| Merulinidae | Hydnophora spp. Horn Coral | X Sweeper Tentacles* | | | Medium Light Medium Flow | 4 inches | Mid Tank |
| Pocilloporidae | Pocillopora sp. damicornis Cauliflower Coral | X Sweeper Tentacles* | | | High Light Strong Flow | 4 inches | Top/Mid Tank |
| | Seriopora sp. hystrix Birdsnest Coral | | X Sweeper Tentacles* | | High Light Medium Flow | 3 inches | Top/Mid Tank |
| | Stylphora sp. pistillata Catspaw Coral | | X Sweeper Tentacles* | | High Light Medium Flow | 3 inches | All Locations |
| Poritidae | Porites spp. Boulder Coral | | | X | High Light Strong Flow | 2 inches | Top of Tank |
| Siderastreidae | Psammocora sp. contigua Sandpaper Coral | | | X | High Light Medium Flow | 2 inches | Mid 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.