

# Reproduction of sea water animal - soft corals -



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New fixed offsets in the dissect dish, picture: AquaCare

## Resource

To multiply soft corals asexual you need some resource:

- sharp scissors, scalpel or the blade of a cutter
- toothpicks
- rubber bands
- dissect dish
- small reef boulders or artificial substrates like burnt clay, ceramic, etc.

## Reproduction of soft corals

If an animal of the soft coral group should be divided or totally cut, it is important that this animal is in a good state of health. Never try to multiply animals with damages or in a bad condition. Damages must heal up before you do something. To cut into a live animal is an immense in-

tervention. Only strong animals at best environmental conditions will survive.

To prevent tissue damages as far as possible it is necessary to cut with extreme sharp instruments. Otherwise the cutting edge will fray and a perfect surface for bacteria is created. Bacteria and others are able to kill a faintly invertebrate very fast.

Slice the animal at the wanted position with an even cut and put the fragment into the dissect dish. The remaining animal and the fragment will get smaller rapidly due to the cutting shock by pumping water out of the tissue. Prick a toothpick minimum 5...10 mm over the cutting edge through a thick part of the fragment animal. Put the animal with the cut side onto the new surface and fix the toothpick with rubber band at each side. The tension of the rubber band should be very low - just to fix the fragment on the new surface. Put the animal into the same aquarium at similar place of the mother animal.

Especially the lighting should be the same. The currents should be low to enable a good start of the new animal. If the cut edge of the fragment is grown on totally you can raise the current. You can wait if the toothpick is pressed to the bottom with the time or you can pull it out carefully.

If you cut soft corals at the near of its bottom and the stub should grow again it is necessary to carve some vertical cuts into the stub. Otherwise it takes a very long time to create new polyps.

If very large animals should get a new boulder take several toothpicks and support the animal e.g. with a transparent tube: the inner diameter of the tube must be larger than the boulder!

If freshly cut surfaces get rotten remove the bad parts generously with a sharp cutter or scissors and renew the support.



*Capnella* spec. fresh fixed



The same animal 5 weeks later



*Sarcophyton* spec. some days after fixing



6 weeks later the animal is grown on totally – the toothpick is pressed downwards with the time



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