

Caring for your Staghorn



Lighting

- Staghorn ferns grow best in medium to bright indirect light.
- Place in view of a bright window for ideal conditions.
- Avoid harsh, direct afternoon sun, which can scorch the fronds.

Watering and feeding

- Water thoroughly when the plant is about 80% dry.
- Drip water over the root ball in a sink or shower or soak the entire mount in water for 10–15 minutes
- Be sure to fully hydrate the moss/root ball.
- Typically, watering is needed every 7–10 days, but adjust as needed based on your environment.
- If the moss still feels damp, wait a few more days before watering again.
- Your mounted fern likely won't need fertilizer right away, as it already contains nutrients. After 6 months to a year, you can begin feeding:
- Use a balanced liquid or water-soluble fertilizer
- Dilute to ½ strength
- Fertilizing can help revive dull plants and encourage new growth, but use sparingly—ferns are light feeders, and a little goes a long way.



Staghorn ferns are epiphytic, meaning they naturally grow on trees rather than in soil. Mounting them mimics how they live in the wild—anchored to rough bark or nestled in the crook of a branch, where they catch rainwater and falling leaf litter for moisture and nutrients. Because they come from environments with frequent rainfall, they don't rely on deep soil or extensive root systems like most plants.

As your fern matures, it will develop a unique, shell-shaped structure called a shield frond. This starts out green and gradually turns brown with age—this is completely normal. Do not remove it.

The shield frond plays an important role:

- It helps secure and protect the root ball
- It anchors the plant to its mount
- It assists in collecting water and organic debris

Over time, the shield frond may grow over and completely cover the moss/root ball.

On mature plants, you'll often notice a natural opening at the top of the shield frond. In the wild, this helps funnel rainwater down into the plant—making it easy for you to mimic this by slowly watering from above.