



Government of South Australia  
SA Health

# Marine Coral Safety

Palytoxin can be found in some ornamental marine corals and is dangerous to your health.

Take precautions when handling marine corals and 'live rock' to avoid being exposed to Palytoxin.

[sahealth.sa.gov.au/marinecoralsafety](https://sahealth.sa.gov.au/marinecoralsafety)



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## Exposure to Palytoxin can be potentially life-threatening. Take precautions to protect yourself and your family:

- > Keep general handling of corals to a minimum.
- > Do not handle coral with your bare hands. Long thick rubber industrial gloves that protect your hands and forearms are recommended.
- > Always handle coral under water. Bag live rock plus water at a distance from aquarium lighting and seal the bag before removing from the aquarium.
- > Monitor aquarium water levels closely to make sure coral is completely submerged at all times.
- > Avoid any coral maintenance activity that can potentially produce aerosols e.g. scrubbing, breaking, cutting, scraping, brushing, and particularly using boiling water or chemicals.
- > Avoid placing coral under powerful halide lights when out of the water. Halide lights used to sustain and raise new coral colonies can cause heat stress in corals that are out of the water causing rapid release of **Palytoxin**.
- > Avoid splashing and disposing of aquarium water carefully as it can contain **Palytoxin**.

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