

GARDEN SPOT NURSERY

Mounting Staghorn Ferns

Staghorn ferns are epiphytes, which means their roots cling to surfaces such as rocks and trees rather than growing in soil. This makes them great candidates for vertical gardening. Though a popular choice, Staghorn Ferns are not the only house plants that can be displayed this way, and wooden wall hangings are not your only option either. Let's go over the many fun ways to mount your staghorn or other epiphyte.

Materials

- Board or mounting surface
- Nails or screws
- Hammer or drill
- Moss
- Staghorn Fern or other Epiphyte
- Fishing Line

How to Mount

1. Use a drill to screw in three to five screws in a circle bigger than your plant on the board. Take the moss and create a nest on the board to the border of the screws.
2. Take the staghorn out of the pot, and shake a little more than 50% of the excess soil off. It's okay to leave some soil on. Position your staghorn in the center of your moss nest. Use extra moss to cover any exposed soil roots.
3. Take a long piece of fishing line and attach it to one of the screws by tying a knot. Extend the fishing line from the first screw to a screw across the board. The goal is not to cross through the plant because you don't want to hurt the shields or the fronds. Keep looping the fishing line around all the screws and then across the plant, making connections all over the board.
4. The staghorn should be pretty secure after a few rounds of long strands of fishing line. Tie off your last piece of fishing line and cut off any excess tail. Use extra moss to weave in and out of the fishing line to disguise it.
5. When your staghorn feels secure, flip it over and shake test it. If the plant moves or moss falls off, apply more fishing line or keep adjusting the moss. Once everything is secure, water your staghorn.

Things to Consider

- Bright indirect light
- Consistent watering, possibly around once a week
- Staghorns can live outside in the summer in the Pacific Northwest in a shady location, but they have to come inside for fall and winter