

SpaChem Spa Chemicals

Water Maintenance Guide

A Simple, Easy Guide To Keeping Your Spa Water Properly Balanced

Spas are meant to be fun, healthful and relaxing. To make maintaining your spa as easy and effortless as possible, we have divided this into the types of care your spa will need.

- Routine maintenance of your spa water to keep it crystal clear.
- What to do if your water has some type of problem, such as cloudiness, foam, etc.
- Maintenance of your spa surface and cover. Protection and maintenance of your spa equipment.
- Accessory products such as test strips, dispensers, fragrances, etc. (These bottles are not color-coded).

SpaChem products are the finest quality warm water treatment products available. Each is designed for a specific job and the directions should always be followed carefully.

Caring for your spa is different from caring for a swimming pool because of the water temperature and the number of people to gallons of water ratio. Treatment products, to be strong enough to be effective, can be harmful if misused. Always keep them where children and pets cannot reach them.

The manual which came with your spa will tell you how many gallons it holds so that you can determine the correct amount of each product to use, always follow the directions on the bottle.

Okay – your spa has been delivered and the electrician has finished his work. What now?

Start up:

Actually, there is a very little you need to do before beginning to enjoy your spa. It has been cleaned and polished at the factory, but you may want to wipe it down with a damp cloth to eliminate any surface dust.

Fill Your Spa:

Your garden hose is just fine to fill your spa, but first run some water through it to eliminate any standing water. Put the end of the hose in one of the filters (if your filter is a top loader), and

turn on the water. This keeps the hose from spewing water everywhere and makes the water fill from the bottom jets and will also go through your filter. Filling in this manner eliminates air in your lines. Fill to the top of the highest jets (not counting neck jets) and be sure water comes to about three inches above the top of the filter basket. This usually is just below the head rest.

Turning On The Pump:

Turn the pump on before adding any spa products, so that they will circulate through the water. The heater comes on automatically, based on the temperature of the water, when the pump is operating.

You will have obtained a start-up kit from your dealer, but you certainly won't need all the products right away.

Why Treat The Water?

There are two reasons water treatment products are needed. The temperature of the water (98°f and 104°f), and the number of people using the spa. Deodorant, perfumes, residual soaps, cosmetics and natural body oils are released into the water and contaminate it.

Four people using a spa is the equivalent to 300 people in an average size swimming pool. Pool chemicals and spa water treatment products are formulated differently for their specific situations.

SpaChem products are powerful compounds designed specifically to deal with various types of contaminants and keep your spa water clear, fresh and pure. They protect your spa and its mechanical components.

Spa Water Testing:

It is important to test your spa water at least twice a week. Ph level, total alkalinity, and sanitizer (chlorine or bromine) levels should be checked each time you use your test kit. Depending on the type of spa you have, how much use it gets, and other factors, you may need a more extensive test kit. Ask your dealer what type of test kit is right for you.

Always test the water before and after adding water treatment products.

Add only the amount of treatment product indicated by your test kit MORE IS NOT BETTER.

If you have questions, take a sample of your spa water to your spa dealer for water testing, advice and assistance.

NOTE:

FOR EASE OF USE, OUR INSTRUCTIONS ARE BASED ON AN AVERAGE SPA HOLDING 350 TO 500 GALLONS. IF YOUR SPA IS SMALLER OR LARGER, YOU WILL NEED TO USE SLIGHTLY MORE OR LESS. READ BOTTLE LEVELS FOR ACTUAL DOSAGES.

The First Day

To protect your equipment and keep the water clear and balanced, we recommend that you add the following products to the water before using your spa for the first time.

With the pump running, add the following products to the water and wait about 5 minutes for them to circulate:

1. Metal Protect – Add 16oz. (1/2 large bottle or all of the small bottle). This product should be added only when filling your spa.
2. Bromine Tabs or Chlorinating Granules – Bromine Tab may be put into a bromine floater (available from your dealer) or put directly into the skimmer adjacent to your filter. (in many spas, the filters are directly behind the skimmer door). If your spa has an ozonator, turn the stem to set the bromine floater with just one opening. Set it with two if you have no ozonator. Chlorine Granules may be added directly to your spa water. Broadcast 2 caps fulls over the surface of the average spa.
3. Scale Defense – Add 10 cap fulls (or 2oz.) to the water to prevent scale from developing on the surface of your spa.
4. Oxidizer Shock – If using the Mineral Purifier add 2 oz. of oxidizer shock.

If you don't mind cold water, you can jump in now. But your water will heat at the rate of about six degrees per hour, so it won't be long before it is warm and refreshing.

WEEKLY MAINTENANCE

Monday and Wednesday:

Use test strips to check pH, alkalinity, bromine, chlorine or oxidizer shock (monopotassium persulfate).

Wednesday:

Add Scale Defense – 10 cap fulls (2 oz.).

Add Oxidizer Shock – 2oz.

Add 1 oz. Chlorine when your spa water is cloudy.

If you are using Bromine Tabs, check your floater or skimmer to be sure you still have a supply of tablets.

Monthly:

Use Fast Sheen to clean and treat your exposed spa surfaces. Use Cover Treat to clean and protect your spa cover.

Clean your spa's filters with Filter Clean:

Filters play an important role in maintaining water quality. Check frequently to make sure filters are clean and operating properly. Remove the filter and wash away surface dirt using your garden hose. Then soak the filter overnight in SpaChem's Filter Clean to remove embedded impurities. The granulated form turns the water bright reddish as the Filter Clean dissolves, becoming yellow as it's active ingredients are used up. After cleaning, hose down the filter again and put back in your spa's filter compartment. (However, having a second filter soaking, helps keep you from having to wait to use your spa).

Every Eight To Nine Weeks:

Use Spa and Tub Flush prior to draining the spa in order to clean the plumbing. Drain and refill your spa. If it is heavily used, you will need to do this more often. Clean the filter overnight with Filter Clean. Polish and protect with Filter Clean. Polish and protect with Fast Sheen – Repeat the "First Day" steps, adding:

- Metal Protect – ½ large bottle or all of a small bottle (16 oz.).
- Scale Defense – 10 cap fulls (2 oz.).
- Bromine Tabs or Chlorinating Granules as needed.

While you are waiting for your spa to drain and refill is a great time to clean and polish the spa and use Cover Treat.

Additionally

Monday: Add Spa Brite 10 cap fulls (or 2 oz.). (Spa Brite can be added at the same time other chemicals are added). Add Oil Gone 10 cap fulls (or 2 oz.).

Spa Water Balance

There are two important factors in proper water balance: pH (potential hydrogen) and total alkalinity.

pH: the pH number measures acidity in the spa water. The reading on your test strip should be between 7.2 and 7.6. The ideal reading is 7.4. Low pH can cause corrosive damage to the spa, pumps and support equipment. High pH can cause scale build up and reduces the effectiveness of the spa sanitizers. Regular use of the proper spa care solutions should prevent problems. pH can be adjusted by using pH Up and pH Down.

Total Alkalinity:

This measures the water's ability to resist a change in the pH. Improper alkalinity can cause the pH reading to fluctuate and give false information. For most spas, the range should be between 80 ppm and 120 ppm. To lower high alkalinity, use pH Down.

Oxidizer Shock Treatment:

When your water looks hazy or dull, it may have become saturated with dissolved impurities such as perspiration, body oil and suntan lotion. To chemically remove these impurities so the sanitizers and filters can work more effectively, it needs oxidizing or "SHOCKING." Use Oxidizer Shock once a week as a preventive measure; after heavy use of your spa; or if you detect an unpleasant chlorine or bromine odor in your spa.

Sanitation:

Sanitation is the process of destroying harmful bacteria and organisms that can cause problems in a spa and keep the water from being pure and clear. The most common compounds used in spas to keep them sanitary are chlorine and bromine.

Spa Water Filtration and Clarity:

Spa filters are designed to trap and remove larger particles of debris. Most spas are equipped with woven fiber type elements and **MUST** be cleaned on a regular basis to prevent damage to the filter itself, and the other equipment in your spa. Clean the filter by soaking it in SpaChem's Filter Clean to loosen oils and trapped contaminants. Rinse with clean water and replace. It's a good idea to have a spare, clean filter to use while the dirty one is being cleaned.

High pH – (Above 7.8) add pH Down in the quantity indicated on the bottle bring the level to 7.2 to 7.6. Retest in 5 minutes.

Low pH – (Below 7.4) add 2 ½ cap fulls of pH Up. Retest in 5 minutes.

Alkalinity – If your pH is in the acceptable range, alkalinity normally will be fine. When alkalinity is not in the 80 to 120 range, it can be adjusted with Alkalinity Up and pH Down. Follow the instructions on the containers. Alkalinity problems can cause erratic pH reading or make maintaining pH balance difficult.

Low Chlorine – (Below 3 ppm) Sprinkle a small handful (approximately 5 Tbs.) of chlorinating granules over the surface of the water and re-check as needed until a reading of 3-5 ppm is reached on your test strip.

High Chlorine – Drain at least half of the water out of your spa and add fresh water. Retest.

Low Bromine – Be sure your bromine dispenser is full of Bromine Tabs. Increase the opening in your dispenser by one slot and allow water to circulate for 24 hours. Retest. If still low, increase the opening one more slot and retest 24 hours. Rarely will you need more than three slots open. If you still have low bromine, contact your dealer or SpaChem.

High Bromine - Close the opening in your dispenser and circulate spa water for 24 hours. Retest. If the reading is still high, remove the dispenser from the water for another 24 hours. Retest. Once the bromine level is correct, put the dispenser back in the water with one slot open.

Contact your spa dealer if you have any other questions using spa chemicals.

