

GUIDE TO SPA MAINTENANCE

SPA WATER TESTING

1. PH is an important element to proper spa maintenance. This is the reading that determines if your spa water is acidic or alkaline. The ideal pH for spas is between 7.2 and 7.6.
 - If the pH is below 7.6, your water is acidic which may result in dissolving metal equipment. Low pH also creates eye and skin irritation and is accompanied by a strong chlorine odor.
 - If the pH is above 7.6, your water is alkaline which may result in calcium or scale deposits forming on the spa finish or equipment. High pH also creates eye and skin irritation.
2. Available Bromine is another important element to proper spa maintenance. The bromine level must be between 2 and 4 ppm (parts per million) at all times to prevent bacteria or algae growth in the spa. The effectiveness of the bromine is directly related to the level of pH. Therefore, it is important that both these readings be taken on a daily basis and adjusted accordingly.
3. Total Alkalinity is the amount of alkaline or base materials in the spa water. These materials act as a buffer in the water and should be kept at a level of 80 to 140 ppm. If the total alkalinity drops below 100 ppm, the water has little buffering capacity; therefore the pH will be very susceptible to change. If total alkalinity is above 150 ppm, the opposite will occur and the pH will be very difficult to change. Therefore, a large amount of acidic material would be needed to change the pH.

ABOUT YOUR SPA

Welcome to the relaxing enjoyment of your own spa. As suppliers of the Spa Care line of spa chemicals, we want to make sure you are fully aware of the needs of your spa in order to enjoy all the benefits from it. A few things to keep in mind!

1. Your spa is not a small pool. The gallons being much less mean the affect of people on the water is much greater. 4 people in a 400gallon spa are equal to 200 people in a 20,000-gallon swimming pool. The temperatures are much warmer in a spa creating additional perspiration and the shedding of soap, oils, deodorants, and other body substances into the water. Therefore a spa must be treated properly with it's own special requirements in mind.
2. Make sure you read and follow the manufacturers recommended guidelines for the use of all spa equipment.
3. **DO NOT HEAT SPA OVER 104 AS THIS MAY CAUSE DAMAGE TO THE SPA AND COULD BE HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEALTH.** Keep a thermometer in the spa at all times to regulate temperature.
4. Test your spa water on a daily basis following the manufacturers directions for use on the test kit being used. It is particularly important to check pH and available bromine.
5. **KEEP ALL CHEMICALS OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN AND IN A COOL DRY AREA.**

INITIAL SPA START UP

1. When the spa is full and has circulated (pump and filter in operation) for 30 minutes, using test strips, test water for bromine, pH, and alkalinity. Follow test strip manufacturers directions for use. If pH is below 7.2, add 2-1/4 teaspoons of pH Up for every 500 gallons of water directly to the spa. If pH is above 7.6, add 1 heaping tablespoon of pH down per 500 gallons of water directly to the spa.

BROMINE FEEDER

1. To add bromine, remove bottom cap from feeder.
2. Fill top feeder with bromine tablets. Replace bottom cap to the feeder and adjust to desired setting. Feeder settings are on the chart below. Secure with the lock ring.
3. For super chlorination turn unit upside down to release air trapped in top.
4. Weather conditions, water temperature, and the number of bathers can affect bromine and use. You may find it necessary to set the feeder to a higher setting.

WARNING:

The Tropical Feeder was designed to use slow dissolving type bromine. DO NOT MIX Tri-Chloral with calcium hypochlorite or other forms of concentrated chlorine. Never mix bromine with any form of chlorine. **Fire or explosion may result.** Thoroughly wash feeder with fresh water when changing chemicals. Use caution when filling feeder; never inhale fumes.

CAUTION: Keep out of reach of children!

Suggested Feeder Setting Table

| Spa/Hot Tub Gallons | Tri Chloro | Feed Setting Bromine |
|------------------------|------------|-------------------------|
| 200 | *.00 | 0.75 |
| 400 | 0.75 | 2.00 |
| 600 | 1.25 | 4.00 |
| 800 | 1.75 | 5.75 |
| 1000 | 2.50 | 7.00 |
| 1200 | 3.50 | 9.00 |

1. Fill bromine feeder with tablets and adjust window opening. Start with 3 slots open, tighten lock ring.
2. Retest spa next day and adjust feeder as necessary. Unscrewing lower threaded portion of feeder allows more “windows” to be open allowing more of the tablets to dissolve, this increasing bromine level, raising this decreases bromine level. Tighten lock ring after adjustment.

DAILY SPA MAINTENANCE

1. Test water for pH and available bromine and alkalinity. Add the appropriate spa care products to adjust water according to its needs.
2. Run pump and filter at least 4 to 6 hours every day to ensure proper circulation of the water and chemicals that will prevent bacteria or algae growth.

WEEKLY SPA MAINTENANCE

1. For every 500 gallon of water, broadcast 3 tablespoons of Shock treatment over the surface of the spa water. This will remove contaminants such as ammonia, urine, perspiration and oils.
2. Remove filters from skimmer and clean.
3. Add 1 cap full of De-foamer as needed.