

# Chlorinated Spa Maintenance

Run the filter several hours daily.

A proper maintenance schedule for spas depends largely on how often the spa is being used and by how many people. Follow the basic guidelines below for caring for your chlorinated spa.

## Sanitize:

It is important to maintain a free chlorine residual of 3 - 5 ppm at all times. When first starting a spa with Chlorinating Concentrate, test the free chlorine residual frequently to determine how often you will need to apply product. Add 2 tsp. of Chlorinating Concentrate per 200 gallons at a time with the pump running. Circulate 2 hours, then retest the free chlorine residual. Adjust as needed.

## Oxidize:

Spas contain a small amount of water relative to pools. Each person who enters the spa has far fewer gallons of water to share than the same number of people in a pool. And each person who enters the spa introduces cosmetics, perspiration, and other undesirable compounds into the water. Because of this, shocking should be frequent.

A shock treatment should be applied following each spa use. If the spa is not being used for a long period of time, shock weekly. Chlorinating Concentrate, Buffered Spa Shock, or SpaGuard Enhanced Shock can be used for maintenance oxidizing. Many spas are equipped with ozonators, which help eliminate some insoluble compounds, but periodic shocking is still necessary.

Add any of these shock products directly to the spa with the pump running. Brush up any undissolved product.

- Buffered Spa Shock: Add 1 oz. per 300 gallons.
- SpaGuard Enhanced Shock: Add 3 tablespoons per 500 gallons.
- Chlorinating Concentrate: Add 1 tsp. per 100 gallons.

After shocking, do not use the spa until the chlorine residual drops to 5 ppm or lower.

## Balance:

Spa water must be balanced to prevent equipment corrosion and surface damage. To balance the spa, perform a complete water analysis and follow ALEX recommendations. Maintain pH between 7.4 - 7.6 at all times. Add balancing products with the aeration off. For help controlling pH, use Spa Sentry, a pH buffer.

## Clean:

Rinse the cartridge filter off periodically, and chemically clean the cartridge when the spa is drained and cleaned. The following formula is a good rule of thumb for estimating when to drain

the spa.

Spa volume / 3 / average daily bather load = number of days between drains

When cleaning the sides of the spa after draining, use a cleaner that has been specifically designed for spa use.

## **Brominated Spa Maintenance**

Run the filter several hours daily.

A proper maintenance schedule for spas depends largely on how often the spa is being used and by how many people. Follow the basic guidelines below for caring for your chlorinated spa.

Sanitize:

It is important to maintain adequate total bromine residuals. This varies depending on the product you are using.

### **Brominating Tablets**

- Residential Spas using Brominating Tablets should maintain 2 - 4 ppm total bromine residual.
- Commercial Spas using Brominating Tablets should maintain 4 - 6 ppm total bromine residual.
- When starting with a fresh fill, fill up the feeder or floater with Brominating Tablets according to manufacturer's instructions. Shock the spa using Chlorinating Concentrate or Brominating Concentrate according to label instructions to eliminate undesirable compounds and establish a sanitizer residual. Adjust the feed or flow rate for the Brominating Tablets and test frequently for the first week. Shock as needed until the proper bromine residual can be established and maintained for several days.

### **Brominating Concentrate**

- Spas using Brominating Concentrate should maintain 3 - 6 ppm total bromine residual.
- When starting with a fresh fill, add 2 tsp. per 400 gallons with the pump running. Test frequently the first week and add Brominating Concentrate as needed to establish and maintain 3 - 6 ppm total bromine residual.

Oxidize:

Spas contain a small amount of water relative to pools. Each person who enters the spa has far fewer gallons of water to share than the same number of people in a pool. And each person who enters the spa introduces cosmetics, perspiration, and other undesirable compounds into the water. Because of this, shocking should be frequent.

A shock treatment should be applied following each spa use. If the spa is not being used for a

long period of time, shock weekly. Brominating Concentrate, Chlorinating Concentrate, Buffered Spa Shock, or SpaGuard Enhanced Shock can be used for maintenance oxidizing. Many spas are equipped with ozonators, which help eliminate some insoluble compounds, but periodic shocking is still necessary.

Add any of these shock products directly to the spa with the pump running. Brush up any undissolved product.

- Brominating Concentrate: Add 4 tsp. per 200 gallons.
- Buffered Spa Shock: Add 1 oz. per 300 gallons.
- SpaGuard Enhanced Shock: Add 3 tablespoons per 500 gallons.
- Chlorinating Concentrate: Add 1 tsp. per 100 gallons.

After shocking, do not use the spa until the bromine residual has dropped to 8 ppm or lower.

Balance:

Spa water must be balanced to prevent equipment corrosion and surface damage. To balance the spa, perform a complete water analysis and follow ALEX recommendations. Maintain pH between 7.4 - 7.6 at all times. Add balancing products with the aeration off. For help controlling pH, use Spa Sentry, a pH buffer.

Clean:

Rinse the cartridge filter off periodically, and chemically clean the cartridge when the spa is drained and cleaned. The following formula is a good rule of thumb for estimating when to drain the spa.

Spa volume / 3 / average daily bather load = number of days between drains

When cleaning the sides of the spa after draining, use a cleaner that has been specifically designed for spa use.

## SoftSoak Maintenance

SoftSoak Maintenance couldn't be easier. Just follow the guidelines below weekly. You may use the cup enclosed in the SoftSoak kit to measure. The cup is a 4 oz. measure with ¼ oz. intervals. After the addition of each product, circulate for 30 minutes before proceeding to the next step.

Add ¾ oz. of SoftSoak Waterline Control per 300 gallons weekly. Be sure to wait 30 minutes before applying any SoftSoak Sanitizer. If Sanitizer is added too soon after Waterline Control, waterline buildup could occur. Be careful not to overdose with SoftSoak Waterline Control. Note: If you are using SoftSoak Spa Conditioner instead of SoftSoak Waterline Control, you should not need to reapply Spa Conditioner until you drain and refill your spa.

Add ¼ oz. of SoftSoak Stain & Scale Control per 150 gallons.

Add 1 ½ - 3 oz. of SoftSoak Shock per 150 gallons. Add SoftSoak Shock according to the use rate of the spa. If the spa is used three or more times a week, add 3 oz. per 150 gallons.

Test the pH and SoftSoak Sanitizer level and adjust as needed. Maintain a pH of 7.4, and a sanitizer level of 30 - 50 ppm. Follow the label instructions for dosage rates.

Drain and refill the spa periodically. To calculate the optimal number of days between drains, use the following rule of thumb:

$$\text{Spa Volume} / 3 / \text{Average daily bather load} = \text{number of days between drains}$$

Note: SoftSoak is not compatible with chlorinating or brominating products or with ionization systems.

Ideal Parameters for SoftSoak Spas:

SoftSoak Sanitizer: 30 - 50 ppm

SoftSoak Shock: 5 - 12 ppm

pH: 7.4

Total Alkalinity: 80 - 120

Total Hardness: 200 - 300

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