



# Hot Tub Maintenance 101

1210 Salazar Rd.  
Taos, NM 87571  
(575) 758-1857  
spaworks@zianet.com

## A. ONCE A WEEK: Allow about 20 minutes to do the following:

1. Raise **spa cover**; leave it up for about 20 minutes to protect it from any fumes. Turn jets on high speed.
2. First, add 1-2 large capfuls of **non-chlorine shock** (MPS). Shock oxidizes (burns up) organic pollutants, which create haze and odor. Shock also reactivates the sanitizer (chlorine or bromine) already in the water, so you can measure it accurately (see step # 6). Reactivation lets you use LESS sanitizer (and that's good!). Also adding a capful of **shock** before *each* use of the spa keeps your water clearer and cleaner.
3. Add to the water 1-2 capfuls of a **demineralizer** such as Stain and Scale Defense, to inhibit calcium deposits.
4. **Filter Cleaning:** Disconnect the power to the hot tub. (If you don't disconnect, be *very* careful that nothing falls into the unprotected plumbing while your filter is out). Pull out your filter; use a garden hose **with a power nozzle [essential!]** to clean out each of its folds. Don't skip this step-- if your filters are not squeaky clean, the tub will often shut down and not heat. Also, if your tub has several filters, rotate them every week.
5. Replace the filter, reconnect the power. If electronic controls have defaulted to factory programming, **reset your temperature**. If you reset the filtration cycle, select a minimum of 8 hours per day. Tubs with a dedicated 24 hour circulation pump do not need resetting.
6. Use a **test kit or test strips** to find the pH and the level of bromine or chlorine in the water.
  - a. If your pH is not in the ideal range, add a "**pH increase**" chemical to raise it, or a "**pH decrease**" chemical to lower it. (NOTE: Changes in pH take several hours to register fully.)
  - b. If your **bromine or chlorine** reading is low, even though you added shock (see step #2):
    - Chlorine users, add 1-2 tablespoons of chlorine granules.
    - Bromine users, add a tablet to the dispenser, OR open it up a little more.
    - If you use a **mineral ionizer cartridge (spa frog)**, add only 1-2 teaspoons of chlorine.
7. Make sure the **water level** is always just above the jets, or they will suck air and "surge". **ESSENTIAL: be sure when you leave the tub that every jet is flowing. Adjust any diverter valves, open any closed jets to get flow out of every jet.** If you don't, nasty crud will grow in your pipes behind the jets.
9. Once a month, apply a **sunscreen-containing vinyl protector** to the top of the cover.

## B. THREE OR FOUR TIMES A YEAR: Get fresh water and soak the filter.

1. Drain and refill the tub with fresh water every 3 or 4 months if two people use it regularly -- more often if usage is heavier, or when water becomes very dirty, or consistently fails to give good test readings. On the same schedule, use a **filter cleaner product (spray or soak type)** to remove oil and minerals from the filter.
  - a. **IMPORTANT:** Turn off the power to the tub while you are draining it, and do not turn the power back on until the water level is above the jets (or else you could burn up the motor).
  - b. **IMPORTANT:** Before you replace the filter, fill the tub with a hose placed directly into **the pipe in the filter cartridge area**, *not* the main tub area.
  - c. As the tub fills, add the recommended start-up dosage of a **demineralizer**.
  - c. When tub is full, adjust the pH. Then add your regular sanitizer. *Bromine users:* At this time, add **granulated bromine initiator** to establish a "bank" of sanitizer, plus 2 bromine tablets in your dispenser. *Chlorine users:* add the recommended start-up dosage of granulated chlorine. *Mineral ionizer users:* add a startup dose of chlorine (or bromine) now.
  - d. Finally, add 1-2 large capfuls of shock (MPS).
3. **NEVER** drain a hot tub and leave it empty during freezing weather, even overnight, unless you have taken all the proper steps to **winterize** the tub. Consult your owner's manual, the manufacturer, or us.