

6 Keys to Basic Spa Care

Get in the habit of practicing some basic spa care rules everyone should observe. Preventing problems before they occur will give you more enjoyment from your sparkling clear spa - not to mention the perfect environment for relaxing with family and friends. There are 6 essential keys to spa care:

1. Circulation

Proper water circulation will help prevent ensure even distribution of products as well as promote filtration. As the water circulates, it passes through the filter, trapping suspended particles. Properly circulating SpaGuard spa care products help keep the water inviting and ready for your soaking pleasure. Be sure to run your spa's circulation system every day to ensure good working order.

2. Filtration

Many spa issues are caused by poor filtration-when the filter is dirty or clogged, debris stays in the water. A properly cared for filter captures hair, oils and cosmetics. (Most spas have a cartridge filter.) Because spa filters trap many contaminants, cleaning has two steps: spraying off loose debris, then using [SpaGuard Filter Cleaner](#) to remove oils and other contaminants embedded into the filter. You need to clean your filter every 4 to 6 weeks. Check your owner's manual or ask your [SpaGuard Dealer](#) for information on how to remove and clean your filter.

3. Cleaning

Contaminants such as dirt, oil and even bacteria can accumulate at the waterline, much like a bathtub ring. Regular cleaning preserves spa surfaces and prevents unwanted build-up. [Off The Wall® Surface Cleaner](#) and [SpaGuard Cleaning Mitts](#) are powerful, low-sudsing cleaners that work specifically with spa water chemistry. Use them to remove the ring of oil and dirt that serves as a breeding ground for bacteria and to prevent residue from building up around the waterline and inside skimmers.

4. Draining and Refilling

Regular draining and refilling is a normal part of spa maintenance. Over time, the water absorbs and dissolves minerals, chemicals and other soluble material. Your [BioGuard dealer](#) can perform a Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) test to help determine if it's time to replace your water. High TDS can make the water look dull, become foamy, and develop an odor. How often you drain and refill your spa depends on how often you use it.

This simple formula can help:

Spa gallons ÷ Daily bathers ÷ 3 = Days between draining

Example: 300 gallons ÷ 2 daily bathers ÷ 3 = 50 days

Note: a bather is one person in the spa for 15-30 minutes.

5. Chemistry

There are two primary components that affect spa water quality: sanitizer (bromine or chlorine) residual and pH. When both are within their recommended ranges, your water is comfortable, protected and clear; sanitizers and "shock products" work efficiently; and spa surfaces and equipment are protected.

Recommended bromine or chlorine residual levels are:

- **Bromine Residual using Brominating Tablets**
 - o Residential = 2 - 4 ppm
 - o Commercial = 4 - 6 ppm
- **Bromine Residual using Brominating Concentrate: 3 - 6 ppm**
- **Chlorine Residual using Chlorinating Concentrate: 3 - 5 ppm**

Maintain pH between 7.4 - 7.6 (the ideal range; acceptable range is 7.2 - 7.6). By adding [SpaGuard Spa Sentry](#), it holds the pH within its optimum range. Spa Sentry is formulated to "watch over" the pH and protect the water from pH changes.

	Brominating Tablets	Brominating Concentrate	Chlorinating Concentrate	Soft Soak®**
pH	7.2 - 7.6	7.2 - 7.6	7.2 - 7.6	7.2 - 7.6
Total Alkalinity	125 - 150 ppm	125 - 150 ppm	125 - 150 ppm	80 - 120 ppm
Hardness*	100 - 200 ppm	100 - 200 ppm	100 - 200 ppm	200 - 300 ppm
Chlorine	n/a	n/a	3 - 5 ppm	n/a
Bromine	2 - 4 ppm	3 - 6 ppm	n/a	n/a
Biguanide	n/a	n/a	n/a	30 - 50 ppm
Peroxide	n/a	n/a	n/a	5 - 12 ppm

*Not Applicable for Spas using Spa Sentry.

**Spa Sentry not compatible with Soft Soak®.

6. Testing

The chemistry of your spa water needs to be checked regularly. Use SpaGuard products to maintain the correct levels, including: sanitizer residuals, pH, total alkalinity, calcium hardness, metals, and total dissolved solids. BioGuard® 4-way Test Strips - and Soft Soak® 4-way Test Strips for Soft Soak spas - test pH, total alkalinity, and sanitizer levels with only one strip.

Maintaining proper levels will make the water clear and comfortable, kill bacteria that can multiply rapidly in a spa, protect spa surfaces from stains caused by metals, and protect spa equipment from scale. There are 3 essential chemical areas to maintain.

1. Sanitization - kills bacteria to help prevent the transmission of disease.
2. Oxidation/shock - removes residues and restores clarity and comfort.
3. Water balance - ensures spa user comfort, water clarity, sanitizer efficiency, and longevity of spa surfaces and equipment.