



Hotspring Freshwater Startup Guide

Startup And Refilling

DAY ONE

Before turning on the power, locate the filter compartment and remove the gray filter cap. The standpipe should be hollow. Place your hose down inside the standpipe and turn on the water. This step is essential to prevent air locks. If you get an airlock, you can [watch my video](#), "How to fix an Airlock Hot Tub.

The preferred method to fill your hot tub is the Hotspring freshwater pre-filter hose attachment. This removes minerals and other contaminants from your water without adding phosphates.

After filling the tub, run the jets to purge the line and move the diverters from side to side.

Note: Only one filter standpipe will be hollow if you have multiple filters. If you have a Mineral Stick, it is usually set inside the standpipe and should be done before reinstalling the filter. Mineral Sticks help kill bacteria, so your freshwater system does not have to work as hard when you have a lot of bathers in your hot tub.

You are ready to install the freshwater salt cartridge. Note a dummy plug came with your hot tub. Make sure you have the right one installed. The freshwater system should be set to Zero during the initial startup until the startup steps are completed. [Reference the Hotsprings Freshwater Owners Manuel.](#)

Add Stain and scale or similar product per the directions. Rinse your filters after 24 hours. Be sure to check the label of this product to see if it contains any phosphates. Some stain & scale products will add phosphates to your hot tub and may cause problems with your water chemistry. Do not add any other chemicals or make water adjustments for 24 hours. Some chemicals will react with your water's minerals and can cause the water to change color. You will have to drain your tub and start over if this happens.

Now you can add salt for your size hot tub per the manual. Be sure to use salt that is specifically used with this system, and Ensure the water temperature is at least 95 degrees, as salt dissolves quickly in warm water. Start by adding half the recommended amount with your jets running. After five minutes, use a test strip to check the amount of dissolved salt. Continue with one cup at a time and test until you reach the proper reading. Your goal is 1750 ppm. This is an excellent time to go to the topside control and press the test button to check for proper system operation.



Using a test strip, check your water balance to ensure your pH (7.2-7.8 ppm) and alkalinity (80-120 ppm). Use a separate Phosphates test kit to check that you are under (300 ppm) and adjust accordingly. If Your logo light is flashing, this is normal and will continue to flash until all steps are completed.

Note: High Phosphates will consume chlorine produced by your freshwater system and, if left unchecked, can also cause a green tint to your water.

Anytime chemicals are added, run your jets on high with the cover open, water features on, air mixes off, and the diverters are in the middle position. Run for ten minutes. Most chemicals are best added in or near the filter compartment when the water is 65 degrees or better. **Anytime you make a phosphate adjustment, set the system to zero and rinse the filter after treatment.**

If your water hardness is above 75 ppm. Drop in the Vanishing Act Calcium bag per the box's instructions. Your goal is 50 ppm. Be sure to rinse the Vanishing Act bag before using it. If you don't use the vanishing act, keep it for future use, as water calcium hardness can change over time as you use your hot tub. A high calcium level will shorten the life of your salt cartridge.

Next, Establish a chlorine level of 5 ppm with granular or liquid chlorine, wait for Five Minutes, then test. Add more if needed and test again until you reach 5 ppm.

You can use your hot tub at this time, but remember that the chlorine level you are trying to establish will go down or back to zero. Thirty minutes after using your hot tub, check your chlorine level and adjust it back to 5 ppm.

Day Two

Set the output level to 10 using the topside controls. [Reference the Hotsprings Freshwater Owners Manuel.](#) **Note:** level 10 is the same as using the boost function.

Test your Water Chemistry and make any needed adjustments. If your chlorine is less than 3 ppm, add more until you reach 5 ppm.



Days Three and Four

Test Daily and Maintain 3ppm of chlorine.

Day Five Plus

Once spa water is holding a 3 ppm chlorine residual, stop adding additional chlorine, adjust the output level as required, and only use the Boost function as needed.

Remember that Water chemistry levels can take up to 30 days to settle and be consistent.

Weekly Maintenance

Check your filters for debris and discoloration. If dirty, rinse them in your laundry sink with our garden hose. You can also use a filter spray cleaner if the filter does not come clean from rinsing. [I have a video all about filter care.](#)

Test for Chlorine. Adjust your chlorine output if needed using the topside control to adjust your high or low chlorine.

Take care when adding liquid or granular chlorine to your freshwater system. Too much granular dichlor over time can cause chlorine to lock from cyanuric acid, and liquid chlorine affects your pH.

Using test strips, check your Water's Alkalinity and pH. Adjust accordingly.

Test your water hardness and phosphate levels. It is essential to keep these in check.

Your goal is to be in the 'Ideal' range. Once you are past the 30-day mark, you can test less often. Keep an eye on the pH level. With salt systems, they tend to drift to the high side.

Use a Spa Oxidizing Shock Once to Three times a week (to eliminate soaps/oils), depending on your usage. Soaps and oils will cause cloudy and foamy water. I recommend and use it myself. Natural Chemistry's Spa Perfect is a more effective alternative to the oxidizing shock.

If you are experiencing excessive foam or the water looks cloudy, check out my blog post, ["Maintaining a Foam-Free Hot Tub: Best Practices for Owners."](#)

Monthly Maintenance

Your vinyl spa cover does require maintenance for a longer life. A cleaner/protector should be applied. If you have Fabric Covers, they do not need any special care.

Check your water level and top it off if needed. Check your hot tub with a Salt test strip. You want to be sure you have enough salt. If your Logo Light is flashing, it is asking you to check the system for proper operation. Check your manual for more information



Every Four Months

Change the Salt Cartridge. Ensure you turn off your hot tub or use the suspend mode accessed through the topside control per the manual. Otherwise, water will flow out of the compartment.

Thoroughly clean the filters using a Filter Cleaner product, per directions on the package. I prefer filter cleaners that are long soaks vs. quick rinse solutions. You should rinse thoroughly and let them air dry before returning them to the hot tub.

If you use a Mineral Cartridge, now is the time to change it.

Yearly Maintenance

I recommend Natural Chemistry's Spa Purge or similar products for cleaner and healthier plumbing by following the directions on the packaging. This will clean Biofilm out of your plumbing lines.

Drain and refill the spa.

Quick Tips

After heavy bather loads, activate the boost control for 24 hours.

For the first 30 days, test often. Spa size + frequency of use + the number of bathers + usage time. These all contribute to your overall water condition.

10-Day Timer notification

After ten days, your water care icon will flash on the topside control panel if the hot tub is unused or the output level has yet to be recently confirmed. Under these conditions, the level automatically will drop to Level 3 after 15 days. At 20 Days, the output level drops to one.

10-Day timer reset

Any Output Level change or pressing "Confirm" will reset the timer, and the "Later" command will be postponed for 3 hours.