



Frog @ease Start Up and Water Care

Startup And Refilling

Day One

Before turning on the power, locate the filter compartment and remove the filter. If you have a hollow standpipe, you can place your hose inside the standpipe and turn on the water; otherwise, leave the hose in the compartment. This step is essential to push air out of the pump to prevent air locks. You can watch my [YouTube video](#) for help if you get an airlock.

Once the tub is powered on, check your **water balance** with a test strip. Make sure your pH (7.2-7.8), Alkalinity (80-120), and water hardness (150-250) are in the proper range and adjust accordingly.

Any hot tub test strips can test the above water chemistry. But only the Frog@ease can test the SmartChlor. You can click on this [Water Balance Guide](#) for more information.

Add a Stain and scale Product is recommended to prevent calcium build-up, especially if your water is high in minerals.

When adding chemicals, run your jets with the hot tub cover open. Any water features should be on. If you have mixes, they should be off. Also, diverters should be in the middle position. Run the main jet pump on high for ten minutes.

Chemicals dissolve best when added in or near the filter compartment when the water is 65 degrees or more.

Once your Alkalinity, pH, and water hardness are in balance. You are now ready to add the Frog Jump Start per the directions. **Reminder:** regular test strips can read pH, Alkalinity, hardness, and regular chlorine. **Only the Frog @ease test strip can read the Frog@ease SmartChlor**

You are now ready to Insert the Mineral and chlorine Cartridge into your hot tub filter compartment holder. Set the dial on the chlorine cartridge according to the manufacturer's recommendations in the [frog@ease manual](#). The mineral cartridge should be set to the maximum number. **I have hot tub brand-specific Manuals at the end of this article.**

The placement of the cartridge is critical. Check the manual for the proper order for your hot tub model.



Weekly

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.

Add Frog maintain or any non-chlorine Shock One to Three times a week, depending on your usage, to eliminate soaps/oils. Soaps and oils will cause cloudy and foamy water. I recommend and use it myself. A natural enzyme. It is a more effective alternative to the non-chlorine Shock.

If you do experience excessive foam, check out my blog post. Maintaining a Foam-Free Hot Tub: Best Practices for Owners.

Next, check your Alkalinity, pH, water hardness, and chlorine using frog@ease test strips. Adjust accordingly. You want to be in the 'Ideal' range.

You can adjust the dial-up or down if the SmartChlor is high or low. If you need more SmartChlor, turn the dial up one number, or if you need less, down one number.

If your dial is already set at four and your level is low, you and your family probably use your hot tub often. This is more than any automatic system can handle. Start by adding Frog Maintain or non-chlorine after each use. This will interact with containments and make more of the chlorine available.

If that is unsuccessful and the exception to adding chlorine, try some additional jump start to get back on track. You can also use regular chlorine if jump start is unavailable. I suggest a level of 3 ppm, measured using a standard test strip.

Monthly

Change the Frog@ease Chlorine Cartridge. Add Jump Frog Start per the directions.

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



Every Four Months

Replace the Frog@Ease Mineral Cartridge

Drain and refill the spa.

Before you drain your hot tub, I recommend a jet line cleaner for healthier plumbing to remove any biofilm buildup. At the end of this post, you will see all of my maintenance and chemical recommendations.

Thoroughly clean and soak the filters using a filter-soaking product. I generally prefer filter cleaners that are long soaks vs. quick rinse solutions. Rinse thoroughly and let them air dry before returning them to the hot tub. For my cleaner picks, scroll or click to the end.

Quick Tips

For the first few weeks, test often. Water chemistry levels can take a few weeks to settle and be consistent. As time passes, you will fall into a routine that works for your usage.

Before placing any @ease cartridge into its holder, submerge it about elbow deep and turn it both ways to remove any air trapped inside. Air pocks may cause the system to be less effective.

For heavy users. If you soak in your hot tub frequently and do not read enough smartchlor on the frog@ease test strip, turn the dial on the smartchlor cartridge up one number. If your dial is at the max, add non-chlorine after each use.

Troubleshooting

No water care system is perfect. Water from one end of the country varies and is treated differently from state to area to area. If unsure about your water source, check with your local dealer for advice and often free water testing. Often, your water source is the root of most issues with hot tub sanitizers.

The most common problem for Hot tub users is foamy water. In previous articles, I mentioned steps to good water chemistry and success. New hot tub users often have the most trouble with their water chemistry. [Click here for my guide, foamy water.](#)