

# Hot Spas Weekly Hot Tub Maintenance Guide

Clean • Safe • Relaxing Water, Every Week

Owning a hot tub should feel effortless—not stressful. Following this simple weekly routine will keep your spa water crystal clear, protect your equipment, and ensure every soak is safe and enjoyable.

## Required Weekly Maintenance Materials

Keep these items on hand:

- Testing & Cleaning
- Spa test strips (chlorine or bromine specific)
- Spa surface cleaner (non-foaming)
- Clean microfiber cloth or sponge
- Spa shock (chlorine or non-chlorine)
- Filter cleaner
- Garden hose
- Chemicals (as needed)
- Chlorine or Bromine
- pH increaser (Soda Ash)
- pH decreaser (Dry Acid)
- Alkalinity increaser
- Calcium hardness increaser
- Defoamer
- Metal sequestrant (optional but recommended)

## Step 1: Test Your Water (2–3 Minutes)

Test your water 2–3 times per week, and always:

- After heavy use
- After adding water
- After shocking

How to Test

- Dip test strip into spa water (12–18 inches deep)
- Hold level for 10–15 seconds
- Compare colors to bottle chart

### Proper Chemical Levels at a Glance

CHEMICAL	IDEAL RANGE
Chlorine	3-5 ppm
Bromine	4-6 ppm
pH	7.2 - 7.8 ppm
Total Alkalinity	80 - 120 ppm
Calcium Hardness	150 - 250 ppm
Phosphates	As low as possible

## Understanding Each Chemical

### Sanitizer (Chlorine or Bromine)

What it does:

- Kills bacteria, viruses, algae, and contaminants.
  - If too low:
    - Cloudy water
    - Strong odors
    - Unsafe soaking conditions
  - If too high:
    - Skin and eye irritation
    - Fading covers and pillows
    - Corrosion of components
- How to adjust:
  - Add sanitizer slowly with pumps running
  - Retest after 30 minutes

## **pH (Power of Hydrogen)**

What it does:

Controls how acidic or basic your water is and how effective your sanitizer works.

- Low pH (acidic):
  - Corrosion of heaters & pumps
  - Eye/skin irritation
- High pH (basic):
  - Cloudy water
  - Scale buildup
  - Sanitizer becomes ineffective

How to adjust:

- Low pH → Add pH increaser
- High pH → Add pH decreaser

## **Total Alkalinity**

What it does:

Buffers pH and keeps it stable.

- If too low:
  - pH swings wildly
  - Corrosion risk
- If too high:
  - Hard to adjust pH
  - Cloudy water

How to adjust:

- Raise with alkalinity increaser
- Lower with small doses of pH decreaser

## **Calcium Hardness**

What it does:

Prevents water from being corrosive or scale-forming.

- Too low:
  - Etches heaters and plumbing
  - Shortens equipment life
- Too high:
  - White scale buildup
  - Cloudy water
  - Heater inefficiency

How to adjust:

- Raise with calcium increaser
- Reduce by partial drain & refill

## **Shock Treatment**

What it does:

Burns off oils, lotions, sweat, and organic waste.

- When to shock:
  - Weekly
  - After parties or heavy use
  - If water smells or looks dull

Pro Tip:

Non-chlorine shock allows same-day soaking.



## **Weekly Physical Maintenance**

- Clean the Waterline
- Wipe scum and oils from shell weekly
- Prevents buildup and waterline stains
- Rinse Your Filter (Weekly)
- Turn off spa
- Remove filter
- Hose from top to bottom
- Reinstall
- Deep clean monthly with filter cleaner.



## Common Water Problems & Fixes



### Cloudy Water

Causes:

- Low sanitizer
- Dirty filter
- Poor circulation
- High pH or calcium

Fix:

- Test & balance water
- Shock spa
- Rinse filter
- Run jets longer



### Foamy Water

Causes:

- Lotions, detergents, body oils
- Old water

Fix:

- Use defoamer (temporary)
- Shock water
- Rinse swimsuits in water only
- Drain & refill if persistent



### Discolored Water (Green, Brown, Yellow)

Causes:

- Metals in fill water
- Low sanitizer

Fix:

- Add metal sequestrant
- Shock spa
- Use pre-filter on hose

## Calcium Scale Buildup

Causes:

- High calcium
- High pH
- Evaporation

Fix:

- Lower pH
- Add scale control
- Partial drain & refill

## Pro Tips from Hot Spas


- ✓ Always add chemicals with pumps running
- ✓ Never mix chemicals directly
- ✓ Keep spa covered when not in use
- ✓ Replace water every 3–4 months
- ✓ When in doubt—stop and test again

## When to Call Hot Spas

Call us if you notice:

- Persistent cloudy or foamy water
- Strong odors
- Heater not maintaining temperature
- Error codes or leaks
- You're tired of guessing 😊

 **Hot Spas – Your Trusted Spa Care Experts**  
**Serving Idaho's Treasure Valley**

 208-631-5810

 [idahohotspas@gmail.com](mailto:idahohotspas@gmail.com)

 Book Online: <https://book.heygoldie.com/Hot-Spas>

**Relax. We've got your spa covered.**