

Hot Tub Draining, Cleaning & Refill Guide

Provided by Hot Spas

Properly draining and cleaning your hot tub is essential for water quality, equipment longevity, and overall enjoyment. Follow this guide carefully to ensure your spa is cleaned safely and restarted correctly.

IMPORTANT SAFETY FIRST

Always turn power OFF at the breaker before draining your spa.

Never drain or work on a hot tub while it has power—this can cause serious damage to pumps, heaters, and control systems.

Step 1: Turn Off Power at the Breaker

- Locate your hot tub breaker (usually near the spa or in your main electrical panel).
- Flip the breaker fully OFF.
- Confirm the spa control panel is completely dark and unresponsive.

 This protects your equipment from running dry and prevents electrical hazards.

Step 2: Drain the Hot Tub Completely

You may drain your spa in one of the following ways:

- Using the built-in drain valve, or
- Using a submersible pump for faster draining

Make sure all water is removed, including low spots in seats and footwells.

Step 3: Clean the Interior Shell

Once the spa is fully drained:

- Spray the shell with a hot tub-safe cleaner (never use household cleaners).
- Wipe all surfaces using a soft cloth or sponge.
- Pay extra attention to:
 - Waterline buildup
 - Seats and headrests
 - Corners and footwell areas
- Rinse lightly if needed and wipe away all residue.
- Remove all debris (leaves, dirt, hair, insects, etc.).

 Avoid abrasive pads or harsh chemicals—they can damage the shell.

Step 4: Clean the Hot Tub Cover

Your cover plays a big role in water cleanliness.

- Remove the cover and lay it flat.
- Rinse the top and underside with a hose.
- Use a mild soap or cover-safe cleaner and a soft brush.
- Rinse thoroughly and allow it to dry before putting it back on.

 Do not use pressure washers—they can destroy the vinyl and insulation.

Step 5: Prepare to Refill the Spa (Critical Step)

To prevent airlocks in your plumbing:

- Remove the filter(s) from the filter housing.
- Place your garden hose directly into the filter housing.
 - This allows water to fill the plumbing and pumps from the inside out.

Step 6: Flush the Jets & Plumbing Lines

While the spa is filling:

- Open all jet valves (air and water controls).
- One at a time, move the running hose to each jet:
 - Hold the hose firmly against the jet face
 - Continue until you see water flowing back out through the jets
 - This helps:
 - Push air out of the lines
 - Flush old water and debris from the plumbing
 - Prevent pump priming issues later

Step 7: Finish Filling to Proper Water Level

- Return the hose to the filter housing.
- Continue filling until the water reaches the proper level:
 - Typically $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 inch above the highest jet
- Reinstall the filter(s).
- Use a skimmer or small net to remove any floating debris.

Step 8: Restore Power to the Spa

- Ensure the spa is fully filled.
- Turn the breaker ON.
- The control panel should power up automatically.

Step 9: Prime the Spa & Start Heating

Most spas will automatically begin priming when powered on.

- If your spa enters “PR” (Priming) mode:
 - Follow on-screen prompts
 - Turn jets on and off as instructed to release trapped air
 - Confirm:
 - Water is moving through the jets
 - No error codes are present
- Set your desired temperature.
- Replace the cover and allow the spa to heat.

 Heating may take several hours depending on starting water temperature.

Final Check

Before walking away, ensure:

- Jets are running properly
- No unusual noises
- Water level is stable
- Spa is heating normally

Need Help? Call Hot Spas

If your spa won’t prime, shows an error code, or you want a professional drain & clean, we’re happy to help.

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