Your Guide
TO SPA MAINTENANCE



MONDAY WEDNESDAY FRIDAY

M W F

SPA MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

Swim 'n Spa™ Line of Chemicals

Use the full line of **Swim 'n Spa™** products to help keep your spa trouble-free.

Product	Use	How Often?
First Step	Prevents staining by dissolved metals and calcium build-up in the water	When filling spa
Protect	Prevents mineral and calcium build-up on spa surfaces & equipment	Weekly
Brom 61 Tablets	Bromine Sanitizer	Daily
Brom Start	Bromine Amplifier	When filling spa
Chlor 62	Granular Chlorine Sanitizer	Daily
Refresh	Non-Chlorine Shock Treatment	Weekly on the M-W-F Spa Maintenance Program
Foam Away	Reduces excess foaming in spa	Small amount as needed
Scum Away	Treats build up of body oils, lotions, etc.	Weekly
Sparkle	Increases water clarity	Weekly
pH Plus	Increases water pH	As Needed
pH Minus	Decreases water pH	As Needed
Total Alkalinity Increaser	Increases water alkalinity	As Needed
Calcium Hardness Increaser	Increases calcium hardness	As Needed
Filter Bright Spray	Cleans cartridge filter	Weekly or as needed
Filter Renew	Deep cleans cartridge filter	Monthly
Surface Magic Spray	Cleans hard cover & spa surface	As Needed

Introduction

Welcome to the Swim 'n Spa™ line of spa maintenance chemicals.
The maintenance of your new spa can be confusing. This is why **Swim 'n Spa™** has created the weekly, simple to follow **M-W-F Spa Maintenance Program**. Following this program will help to keep your spa trouble-free.

There are a few things that **Swim 'n Spa™** would like you to remember about spas before you begin. Though spas have been thought of as miniature swimming pools, their care differs from pools in several ways. The chemical balance of a swimming pool usually changes gradually, whereas in a spa the same changes can happen instantly.

Three major reasons are:

- The bather load in a spa is high. Four people in a 500-gallon spa have about the same effect on the water chemistry as 200 people have in a 20,000 gallon backyard swimming pool.

- The usual water temperature in a spa ranges between 98° and 104° Fahrenheit. At these high temperatures the water evaporates at a rapid rate and leaves behind dissolved minerals and salts, most commonly referred to as total dissolved solids (TDS). TDS can ham-per the work of the sanitizer and cause the water to take on a dull cast. In a spa, people perspire at the rate of approximately 1 pint for every 20 minutes. This adds to the TDS level and also contributes to the organic contamination.

- The water turn over rate is very rapid; together with aeration of jets and blowers it causes the sanitizer to dissolve more quickly.

Swim 'n Spa™ M-W-F Spa Maintenance Program is intended for residential customers only. Ask a spa professional for details on chemical requirements for use in other applications.

Safeguard Your Family

Swim 'n Spa™ wants to ensure many happy experiences while using your new spa. Please take a moment to review these safety tips before using your spa.

- Always add chemicals to spa water, never water to chemicals.
- Add each chemical separately.
- Wait 15 minutes before adding any additional chemicals.
- Do not combine different chemicals before adding them to the spa water.
- Store chemicals according to the manufacturer's label and keep out of the reach of children.
- Maintain proper sanitation levels.
- Never heat your spa above 104° Fahrenheit
- Limit your spa session to 15 minutes.
- All users should shower without soap before entering the hot tub to remove excess deodorants, lotions, and body oils.
- Adult supervision must be present when children are using the spa.
- Do not consume alcohol while using the spa.
- If you are pregnant have high blood pressure or other cardiovascular condition, consult a physician before using the spa.
- All chemicals, if not handled properly, may be dangerous.

Getting Started

Depending on where you live, the water you use to fill your spa can be filled with many minerals and metals. These elements can affect which chemicals are needed to maintain proper water chemistry. **Swim 'n Spa™** strongly recommends taking a water sample to a spa professional to determine the pH, calcium hardness, metals and total alkalinity of your water. Once this test has been completed you are ready to begin filling you spa for the first time.

Chemical Use Tips

When filling your spa, use a bottle of ***First Step*** to prevent staining and scaling on the spas surface.
Allow all chemicals to circulate in the spa for 15 minutes before adding additional **Swim 'n Spa™** products.

Always Add Chemicals to Water, Never Water to Chemicals!

TIP: When filling your spa, use a bottle of *First Step* to prevent staining and scaling on the spas surface.





1 Phase 1: Filling the Spa

1. Fill the Spa with water.

The spa should be allowed to fill until the water level is at the center of the skimmer. If using a garden hose, allow it to run for several minutes to avoid introducing bacteria that may be living in the hose.

2. Add First Step to eliminate staining.

As the spa fills, add ***First Step*** to prevent build up of minerals on the spa surface. Add one bottle per 500 gallons of water. This should be allowed to circulate in a filled spa for 60 minutes before proceeding to Phase 2. A bottle of ***First Step*** is included in the **Swim 'n Spa™ Starter Kit.**



2 Phase 2: Water Balance

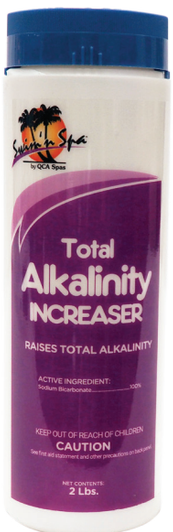
The phrase "Water Balance" refers to four interrelated factors:



pH- The measurement of relative acidity and basicity. The recommended range is 7.4-7.8. In this range both spa user and equipment are protected. If the pH levels are not in the acceptable range use the ***pH Plus*** to make the water more basic or ***pH Minus*** to make the water more acidic.

Alkalinity- Refers to the concentration of alkaline materials in the water. These materials have the ability to buffer or control the pH level. A range of 100-150 ppm should be kept at all times. Alkalinity is raised with ***Total Alkalinity Increaser*** and reduced with ***pH Minus***.

Calcium Hardness- The measure of calcium salts contained in the water. The standard range of 175-225 ppm is recommended. Above this range the water can be cloudy and/or cause scaling on the tub surface, equipment, and piping. To increase hardness, add ***Calcium Hardness Increaser***. To reduce hardness, partially drain and refill spa.





Program Tip

Water pH and total alkalinity can be tested at home using the test strips included in your ***Swim 'n Spa™ Starter Kit.*** Calcium hardness should be determined by a spa professional.

3 Phase 3: Sanitizing the Spa

Swim 'n Spa™ offers two options in chemical sanitizers ***Brom 61*** bromine tablets or ***Chlor 62*** granular chlorine. Each method offers prevention and control of bacteria that can grow in the warm environment created by your spa.



Natural mineral purification can also be used to enhance the effects of bromine or chlorine such as Spa Mineral Cartridge or a professionally installed ozone system. While these items aid in sanitation, they are not a replacement for bromine or chlorine.

Brom 61

Place ***Brom 61*** Tablets in the chemical feeder. Then add 2 ounces of ***Brom Boost*** directly to the water. Allow the spa to circulate until a bromine reading of 3-5 ppm is attained. Do not use your spa until you have obtained a 3-5 ppm reading. You may have to adjust the feeder to maintain a 3-5 ppm level. Check the bromine levels before each use to insure a proper reading. Check the feeder regularly to make sure there are enough tablets in the feeder. Refer to your feeder's directions for proper feeder adjustment.

Chlor 62

After your spa has been filled add 1 level tablespoon of chlorine to supershock the water and to establish a chlorine residual. Allow the spa to circulate until a chlorine reading of 1.5-3 ppm is attained. Do not use your spa until you have obtained a 1.5-3 ppm reading. At this time test the water again to ensure that the pH is between 7.4-7.8. If pH is below 7.4 add ***pH Plus*** and if it is above 7.8 add ***pH Minus.***

NOTE: Frequent use, high temperature, and turbulent aerated water will require more frequent additions of the sanitizer system to maintain the 1.5-3 ppm level for ***Chlor 62*** or 3-5 ppm for ***Brom 61.***

Ozone

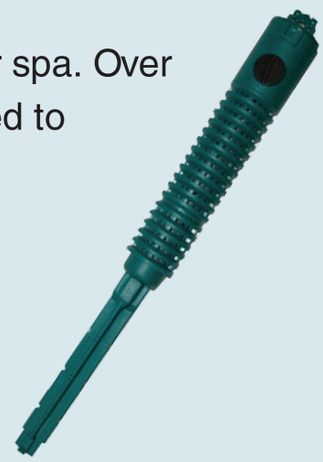
Ozone is a gas created by an ozonator installed in a spa*. The ozonator creates natural ozone gas. This gas aids the bromine or chlorine in your system by destroying unwanted microbes. Ozone does not replace the need for bromine or chlorine but aids in the chemicals effectiveness. Follow the directions above for use of bromine or chlorine in your spa.



**Not all spas are equipped with an ozonator. Please ask your dealer if you have any questions.*

Spa Mineral Cartridge

A mineral cartridge is placed in the filter cartridge of your spa. Over the next four months a balance of metallic ions is released to control bacterial growth. This system is safe to use with bromine, chlorine, and ozone systems. The mineral cartridge does not replace bromine or chlorine, but does aid in it's sanitizing capabilities and helps lower the ppm required to sanitize your spa water.



Shock

Oxidation is the process of removing organic materials such as body oils, cosmetics, and lotions from the water. When these organics increase in the water, the water becomes cloudy or hazy. Shocking with ***Refresh*** will oxidize the materials that may cause foul odors, eye or skin irritation, or dull, cloudy water. Shocking weekly will also increase the sanitizers' effectiveness.



4 Phase 4: Swim 'n Spa™ M-W-F Program

To maintain the chemical levels in your spa follow the ***Swim 'n Spa™ M-W-F Spa Maintenance Program***. On the 2nd, 4th & 6th day of the week use the chart below to maintain safe chemical levels.

MONDAY WEDNESDAY FRIDAY

M W F

SPA MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

	Chlorine	Bromine
MONDAY	• Test pH and total alkalinity • Adjust with **pH Plus** or **pH Minus** • Test chlorine • Add **Chlor 62** • Add **Sparkle**	• Test pH and total alkalinity • Adjust with **pH Plus or pH Minus** • Test bromine • Add **Brom 61** • Add **Sparkle**
WEDNESDAY	• Test pH and total alkalinity • Adjust with **pH Plus or pH Minus** • Test chlorine • Add **Protect** • Add **Scum Away**	• Test pH and total alkalinity • Adjust with **pH Plus or pH Minus** • Test bromine • Add **Protect** • Add **Scum Away**
FRIDAY	• Test pH and total alkalinity • Adjust with **pH Plus or pH Minus** • Test chlorine • Shock water with **Refresh**	• Test pH and total alkalinity • Adjust with **pH Plus or pH Minus** • Test bromine • Shock water with **Refresh**



Program Tip

If you experience excess foaming, use ***Foam Away*** to quickly remove foam. Shocking your spa with ***Refresh*** will prevent much of the excess foaming.

Swim 'n Spa™ Recommendations

There is more to your spa then just the water. To ensure proper operation and extend the life of your spa please use these additional **Swim 'n Spa™** products to maintain your spa.



Bottle shown without included spray nozzle.

Keep Your Spa Cartridge Filter Clean!

The cartridge filter does a big job by removing many of the body oils and minerals found in your spa water. With regular cleaning you can extend the life of the filter.

Filter Bright Spray: A spray-on-filter cleaner that can be used for a quick cleaning that removes surface containments.

Filter Renew: An overnight treatment for a very clean filter.



Don't Forget the Hard Cover!

Use ***Surface Magic Spray*** to remove dirt and oils from the hard cover.

Foam Troubles?

A build up of body oils, detergents, or lotions could be to blame for the excess foam in your spa. Add one squirt of ***Foam Away***, approximately one-half of an ounce, as needed and the extra foam will disappear.



Troubleshooting Tips

Swim 'n Spa™ offers a full line of spa maintenance products. Use the guide below to diagnose some common water problems. If you continue to have problems, consult your spa professional.

Symptom	Problem	Resolution
Cloudy Water	Low sanitizer chemical level or large amounts of microbial growth	Shock spa with ***Refresh*** and check chlorine/bromine level, adjust accordingly
	Build up of materials not able to be filtered	Use ***Sparkle Plus*** or add ***Scum Away***
	Dirty filter, pH or total alkalinity is out of balance	Use ***Filter Bright*** products to clean filter. Test water and use ***pH Plus*** or ***pH Minus*** as necessary.
	High calcium levels	Use ***Protect*** weekly
White Scale/ Deposits	Mineral content of water is high	Use ***Protect*** weekly Test water and adjust as needed
Cloudy, Green Water	Low sanitizer chemical levels	Shock with ***Refresh*** and check chlorine/bromine level, adjust accordingly
Clear Green Water	Copper or iron in spa water	Add a bottle of ***First Step*** to neutralize minerals. Allow to circulate; check pH
Brown Water	Iron or manganese in spa water	Add a bottle of ***First Step*** to neutralize minerals. Allow to circulate; check pH
Odor	Large amounts of microbial growth	Shock with ***Refresh*** and check chlorine/bromine level, adjust accordingly
Eye/Skin Irritation	Chloramines or excessive microbial growth	Shock with ***Refresh*** and check chlorine/bromine level, adjust accordingly
	pH or alkalinity is out of balance	Test water and use ***pH Plus*** or ***pH Minus*** as necessary
Scum Deposit on Waterline	Build-up of oils, lotions, or soaps	Use ***Scum Away*** weekly
Excess Foam	Build-up of oils, lotions, or detergents	Add ***Foam Away*** and shock with ***Refresh*** weekly
	Calcium levels are low.	Add ***Calcium Hardness Increaser*** and test
	Large amount of total dissolved solids (TDS)	Levels should be 150-400 ppm. Drain spa. Refill using Phase 1 (page 5)

Spa Terms Glossary

ppm - Parts per million. A measurement of the dissolved substance in the spa water such as bromine or chlorine.

pH - The measurement of relative acidity and basicity. The recommended range is 7.4 - 7.8. In this range both spa user and equipment are protected. If the pH levels are not in the acceptable range use ***pH Plus*** to make the water more basic or ***pH Minus*** to make the water more acidic.

Alkalinity - Refers to the concentration of alkaline materials in the water. These materials have the ability to buffer or control the pH level. A range of 100-150 ppm should be kept at all times. Alkalinity is raised with ***Total Alkalinity Increaser*** and reduced with ***pH Minus***.

Calcium Hardness - The measure of calcium salts contained in the water. The standard range of 175-225 ppm is recommended. Above this range the water can be cloudy and/or cause scaling on the tub surface, equipment and piping. To increase hardness, add ***Calcium Hardness Increaser***. To reduce hardness, partially drain and refill with water.

TDS - (***Total Dissolved Solids***) refers to the dissolved solids found in water. Tap water, for instance, contains 50-330 ppm. If the level of TDS increases to 1500 ppm the effectiveness of spa sanitizing chemicals is greatly reduced and corrosion is accelerated. **Swim 'n Spa™** recommends changing the water in your spa every three months.



Notes

Notes

Brom 61 Tablets

Chlor 62 Granular

Refresh

First Step

Protect

pH Plus & pH Minus

Calcium Hardness Increaser

Total Alkalinity Increaser

Filter Bright Spray & Filter Renew

Surface Magic Spray

Foam Away & Scum Away

Sparkle Plus

DISCLAIMER: This product catalog is intended to help owners of home hot water spas/hot tubs keep their units clean, sanitized and safe for bathers. The guidelines herein are not intended for application to commercial spas/hot tubs. Spa water conditions, bather variations, and bather load will vary; accordingly, **Swim 'n Spa™ and QCA Spas, Inc.** do not warrant results and cannot be liable for personal injury or damage to spa shell surface, cabinetry, or equipment as a result of improper use of **Swim 'n Spa™** chemicals. **Swim 'n Spa™ and QCA Spas, Inc.** will not be responsible for incidental or consequential damages or losses arising from any cause (e.g. water or chemical damage to carpet, floors, walls, ceiling, loss of use, etc. **Swim 'n Spa™ and QCA Spas, Inc.** reserve the right to change this Spa Maintenance Guide, and **Swim 'n Spa™** formulations, including the recommended guidelines without notice to the consumer. For the latest product information and recommendations see our web site at www.qcaspas.com.

WARNING: Elderly persons, infants, and anyone subject to heart disease, diabetes, high or low blood pressure, strokes, epilepsy, or similar afflictions should not enter a spa alone or without consulting a physician. Unsupervised use by children should be prohibited. Never use a spa while under the influence of alcohol, anti-coagulants, antihistamines, vasoconstrictors, vasodilators, stimulants, hypnotics, narcotics, or tranquilizers. If you are taking medication of any kind or being treated for any illness, consult your physician prior to the use of the spa. A spa should be kept at temperatures less than 104°F or 40°C for personal safety and health.

FOR QUESTIONS OR ASSISTANCE
PLEASE CALL US AT
888-729-7727