

Spa operation

- Obtain state or local authority–recommended operator training. Suggested national training courses are listed at <http://www.cdc.gov/healthyswimming/courses.htm>.
- Maintain free chlorine or bromine levels continuously between 2–5 parts per million.
- Test disinfectant levels at least daily (hourly when in heavy use).
- Maintain the pH level of the water at 7.2–7.8.
- Scrub spa surfaces if they have a slime layer.
- Maintain the filtration and recirculation system according to manufacturer recommendations.
- Drain and replace all or portions of the water on a weekly to monthly basis, depending on usage and water quality.
- Treat the spa with a biocidal shock treatment on a daily to weekly basis, depending on water quality and frequency of water changing.
- Cover spas, if possible, to minimize loss of disinfectant and reduce the levels of environmental contamination (e.g., debris and dirt).
- Maintain accurate daily records of disinfectant and pH measurements.
- Educate spa users about appropriate use (e.g., signs and handouts).

Spa users

- Shower or bathe with soap before entering the spa.
- Observe limits, if posted, on the maximum allowable number of bathers.

Additional spa safety

- Prevent the temperature from exceeding 104°F (40°C).
- If pregnant, consult a physician before spa use, particularly in the first trimester.
- Exclude children aged <5 years from using spas*.
- Maintain a locked safety cover for the spa when possible.
- Prevent entrapment injuries with appropriate drain design and configuration.

*Additional information is available at <http://www.aap.org/pubserv/backyd.htm>.