





# Spa Maintenance and Water Chemistry

Congratulations on your new spa purchase! The benefits to owning a spa are immeasurable. However, to keep your spa preforming at an optimum level, periodic maintenance is required. Below are some tips to help ensure that each and every spa experience is an enjoyable one, beginning with starting up your spa to draining it down for cleaning.

## Filling your spa

Every 3 to 4 months your spa should be drained (See spa owner's manual for drain location). Upon (re)filling your tub to the proper fill line (1" - 2" above the highest back jet (NOT neck & shoulder jets), make sure your spa is properly primed. You spa has a 4 minute window ("Priming Mode") to allow you to make sure all air is out of the system.

"Ready" mode is the default operational setting on the control panel. When in Ready mode the spa will maintain your desired temperature setting at all times. In times of extended higher external temperatures, the "Rest" mode can be implemented to reduce heating costs. Rest mode is like Ready mode - except that it will only heat during the programmed filter cycles. Rest mode should never be used in times of sub-60 external temperatures.

For a full description of all modes and a completely breakdown of your control panel, consult the spas owner's manual.

#### **Jets and Control Knobs**

While your control panel will operate the motors (See your Owner's Manual for specifics) you can also control the flow and force of your jets by your air control knobs and the jets themselves. Jets can be turned on or off by turning the jets clockwise (OFF) or counterclockwise (ON). You may even interchange jets of the same size by turning the jet counterclockwise until it pops out of the housing. To increase the pressure of the jets, switch your air control knobs to the ON position for an air/water mix. To decrease the pressure of the jets, switch the air control knobs to OFF for 100% water output.



Cartridge filters are the standard filter media of the spa industry. Properly maintained, a spa filter cartridge will last up to two years. To ensure the best possible filtration remove the cartridge(s) once a month, spraying it off completely - Be sure to remove all debris from between each pleat. Every 4 months, during your drain & fill, soak your cartridges in a cartridge cleaning solution (CARTIDGE RENU is for sale at Prestige Pools & Spas). An overnight soak will remove build up that cannot be achieved by regular cleansing. (We recommend having spare filter(s) on hand for this.)

### **Water Chemistry**

**Filter** 

For specifics as to how to initiate your water chemistry, consult the Prestige Pools & Spas "Spa Start-Up" handout or visit our EDUCATION section online at our website. Here is a quick rundown of the three chemistry levels that need to be monitored continuously:

**pH-** The pH level of your water should be kept as close to 7.6 as possible (with 7.2 -7.8 as acceptable). Elevated pH levels over time can pull metals from their sources (Jet bearings, in-line heat coils, etc), which **is not covered under any manufacturer's warranty.** Decreased pH levels over time can deposit metals onto the shell's surface. The results are a sandpaper-like texture that must be chemically lifted with a metal removing product called CONTROL (Available at Prestige Pools and Spas).

**Alkalinity-** A buffer for your pH, the alkalinity levels should be maintained between 80 to 150ppm at all times, depending on your sanitizer. Properly set, the alkalinity level will help limit external factors from either increasing or decreasing your pH levels. Extended elevation of alkalinity levels can pull metals from their sources (Jet bearings, in-line heat coils, etc), which **is not covered under any manufacturer's warranty.** Decreased alkalinity levels over time can deposit metals onto the shell's surface.

**Sanitizer-** Chlorine, Bromine, Nature II Mineral Cartridge & @ease are the 4 sanitizers we offer with your new Artesian Spa. Sanitizers keep algae and bacteria from growing in your spa water. Sanitizer levels should be kept within the desired range, as indicated by the test strip (Consult the Prestige Pools & Spas "Spa Start-Up" handout for specifics). If you have selected the Nature II sanitizer, place the Nature II cartridge in the filter area (NOT inside the filter itself).

**Defoamer-** Foaming in your spa water is and indicator of something wrong with your water chemistry or from products (such as but not limited to) lotions, deodorants, hair products and residual detergents in bathing suits left over from the wash cycle. FOAM AWAY can be purchased from Prestige Pools & Spas to alleviate excessive foaming. However, in cases of extreme foaming you may be required to drain your tub and soak your filters overnight.

**Clarifier-** The 5 IN 1 CLARIFIER provided by Prestige Pools & Spas will clarify cloud water, remove trace metals, eliminate oils, eliminate scum lines and improve filter efficiency. Please be sure to have your water chemistry levels properly balanced prior to adding our 5 IN 1 CLARIFIER. Only use the recommended dosage of 1 oz per 500 gallons.

## **Draining Your Spa**

Every 3 to 4 months your spa should be properly drained. Please be sure that before draining the spa it is completely powered off. TO DRAIN YOUR SPA: Locate your drain hose (check owner's manual for location). Connect your garden hose to the drain to control where the spa will drain to and open the drain. Gravity will take care of the rest. Once completely drained the spa can be wiped down and cleaned.

## **Additional Tips**

- A spa purge product should be used every 4 months prior to your drain & refill of your spa. These products remove biofilm that will build up in the spa lines over time.
- It is normally preferred to add chemicals **after** spa usage and (for greater accuracy) recommended to test your water chemistry **prior** to entering the spa.
- Leave the spa cover open for 15 minutes after adding chemicals to help preserve your spa cover by allowing "burn off" to proceed in open air. This will protect your pillows and cover from failing prematurely and would not fall under any warranty.
- Apply 303 PROTECTANT to the top of your cover every 4 months. This helps prevent fading and cracking and can be purchased at Prestige Pools & Spas.
- For customers who live outside of a reasonable driving radius, Prestige Pools offers free home delivery for purchases of chemicals over \$100.00.
- Try to time your spa drains with the weather: It is extremely difficult to adequately drain and clean a tub in January. Draining your tub in late October/early November will help you bypass the winter months, allowing for an early March drain & fill.

- Test your spa water chemistry twice a week regardless of usage. It cannot be stressed enough: Water chemistry mismanagement is not ever covered under any manufacturer's warranty. Please visit the Prestige Pools & Spas showroom for handouts pertaining to water chemistry, start up and for professional advice on any and all spa needs.
- Check out our BLOG on our website for additional tip for spa maintenance. When on our homepage, click on IN THE NEWS and it will prompt you to our most recent blogs.

## Water Chemistry Questions?

- Email water@prestigepoolsandspas.com
- Call 314.821.6660
- Bring in a fresh sample of water to our showroom
  - o At least 8 oz.
  - Taken at least 2 hours after adding chemicals
- LIKE us on Facebook and see posts related to water chemistry

For more water chemistry advice, you can also visit <a href="https://www.frogproducts.com/water-care/spa-school/">https://www.frogproducts.com/water-care/spa-school/</a>

Prestige Pools & Spas appreciates your business. A small, family-run business for over 30 years in south St. Louis County, we work hard to maintain our A+ rating with the Better Business Bureau. As St. Louis' most award winning pool company, we would not be able to offer the finest quality spas on the market if it wasn't for your continued support. We look forward to serving all of your hot tub needs going forward. Thanks again for your business!

Sincerely,

Then entire staff at Prestige Pools & Spas