

Purging, Draining & Refilling

your spa or hot tub is a very important factor in caring for your spa, the spa's components & more importantly, the people using the spa.

EVEN IF YOUR SPA OR HOT TUB IS BRAND NEW, FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS!

Many spa & hot tub water problems start from a lack of proper maintenance; especially drain & refilling. But it's just a little more than that. We are answering a LOT of questions dealing with pink slime, unusual scaling, spa mold (VWMM) & bio-films lately.

Keep in mind that these problems are preventable. Also keep in mind that normal maintenance including shocking & water balance will have almost no effect. The fact is shocking with tons of chlorine, bromine or hydrogen peroxide WILL NOT do a good job killing it, never mind removing it.

Take these 3 Basic Steps:

1. **Purge** - purge the spa of bio-films & other accumulations on spa surfaces & in the plumbing lines. Use Natural Chemistry Spa Purge, Swirl Away, AquaFinesse Spa Clean Tablet, SpaBoss Whirlpool Rinse or Spa System Flush.
2. **Drain & Clean** - drain the spa of all the purged water. Clean the entire spa, all of its pillows, filter cartridge.
3. **Refill** - refill the spa with fresh, clean water. NEVER empty the spa into a reservoir or pool & reuse it. Would you do that with a bath tub? Better yet: refill the spa with a tap water filter attached to remove impurities & other unwanted stuff.

In case the spa has never been purged, repeat steps 1 & 2 for best results.

How often do you need to Purge, Drain & Refill your spa?

Here's a good formula to use. The formula is pretty simple:

1. Find the correct number of gallons in the spa.
2. Divided the gallons by the average daily bather load (for example, 3 bathers, 2 times per week would equal approximately 1).
3. Then divide that number by 3 to get your answer (in days).

First example: a spa or hot tub with 300 gallons of water that is used by 2 people twice each day, 5 - 7 days (equals a bather load of 4). So, $300 \div 4 = 75 \div 3 = 25$ days or about once per month.

Second example: a spa or hot tub with 300 gallons of water that is used by 2 people once each day 5 - 7 days (equals bather load of 2) $300 \div 2 = 150 \div 3 = 50$ days or about once every 2 months.

This formula is not concrete, HOWEVER it is a good guideline to follow. Depending on how much the spa is used directly determines how often it needs to be drained & refilled.

Even if the spa is not used regularly, Purge, Drain & Refill on 3 to 4 times each year.

Remember that most commercial spas need to drain & refill their spas at least once per week! Or they should!

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Good Spa Care. Purge, Drain & Refill

**Important information
for all spa & hot tub
owners who want to
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Isn't that GROSS? That is a picture of a brand new spa that the customer decided to properly purge before using. He is so glad he did!

PURGE, Step 1 for a really clean spa.

White Water Mold (WWM) & pink slime grows and thrives on an underlying bed of bio-film. This bio-film is VERY chlorine & bromine resistant. The only way to deal with the WWM or slime is to use a purging product such as Spa System Flush or AquaFinesse Spa Clean Tablets to remove the biofilm.

Even if your spa is brand new, you don't know how long it was sitting on a ware-house shelf before arriving at your home. After the manufacturer has water tested the spa, it is drained & packaged. However, the moisture stays in the plumbing lines & the bio-film grows.

Tip: if you notice any brown or pinkish stains on plumbing lines, that is dormant bio-film.

Add the Purging Product to the spa following the product label instructions. Allow to run overnight, about 12 hours or so. These products will aid in removing the existing bio film. Don't be surprised if the water gets NASTY looking (as shown above).

DRAIN & CLEAN, Step 2 for a really clean spa.

Drain & physically clean all fittings, pillows, skimmer & filter areas, etc. When draining, if it is at all possible, tip the spa on its side. This will help to get the water that is sitting in the plumbing lines out.

We understand that it is almost impossible to remove 100% of the water, but the more that is removed, the better.

Once the spa is drained, clean the entire spa surface.

Clean the sides, walls, and bottom. Remove those spa pillows; clean the pillows & the area under them. Clean the inside of the spa filter cartridge area.



Clean the filter cartridge. That means chemically clean them. Simply rinsing them does not remove the accumulated greases, body oils, hair & skin that becomes embedded in the cartridge material.

Cartridges made with Microban® coating should be careful to use filter cleaners that will not degrade the special antimicrobial coating.



Two great products that are "Microban® safe" cleaners are Natural Chemistry Filter Perfect and AquaFinesse Filter Cleaner Tablets. Not chemically cleaning a filter is like rinsing dirty clothes: they won't get clean.

REFILL, Step 3 for a really clean spa.

Now it's time to refill the spa. Although tap water may be clean & perfectly fine, there could be trace metals or other impurities like combined chlorines (chloramines), small amounts of bio-film or mold or slime.



If you fill your spa using well water, there may be bits of dirt or grit that gets into the spa. It's very important to remove this debris especially if your spa is equipped with rotating

or pulsing jets as this sand or grit can get into mechanisms that cause the spinning or pulsing.

Tap water filters are often good for up to 5 or 6 spa refills plus water top ups. Simply attach the filter to your garden hose & fill.

Three popular tap water filters are:

Great Grit Filter - removes heavy grit & dirt. Filters to about 5 microns.

Great Start Filter - Removes or reduces: sodium, lime, iron, rust, minerals, magnesium, dirt & even certain bacteria that could be present in your water supply. Filters down to about 1 micron!

Pristine Fill - helps to remove up to 99% of chemical contaminants & suspended solids (including certain large bacteria).

