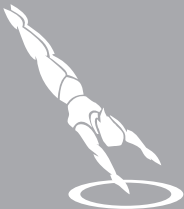




Spa guide

The complete guide
to spa maintenance



CHAMPION
QUALITY SWIMMING POOL CHEMICALS



1 Safety

Spas have become very popular in recent years, with a wide range of models to suit most budgets. They come in a variety of types and with a range of features. They are known by different names within the industry but they are basically a body of water for relaxation, kept at higher temperatures than a swimming pool.

As with a swimming pool it is important that we maintain good water quality so that it is safe for the bather. Although spas are treated in largely the same way as a swimming pool, they do offer a challenge to those maintaining water quality due to the smaller volume of water. The person responsible for this water should be competent in using chemicals and understand the reasons for their use. Follow this simple guide and read the product labels to make the job much easier.

Misuse of chemicals can cause serious injury or death. Do not let this happen to you.

Some tips on the safe handling and use of spa chemicals are included in this guide but if you are unsure about a procedure, seek advice from a professional in the pool and spa industry.

- **Always read the label on each product and follow the instructions.**
- **Never mix chemicals.**
- **Use clean containers for pre dissolving chemicals.**
- **Fill the container with water and add the chemical to the water, never the other way around. Mix thoroughly to dissolve.**
- **Try to avoid spills but in such an event use clean dry equipment to clear up. The best place to dispose of the spill could be in the spa but only if a small quantity of chemical is involved.**
- **Do not add chemicals to the spa when it is in use.**
- **Use chemicals in a well ventilated area. Beware of strong winds when using powders.**
- **Keep chemicals away from children and animals.**

? Advice

Many household chemicals can cause harmful reactions when mixed with spa or pool chemicals.

? Advice

If a product label is damaged or missing so that you are unable to read the instructions, do not use it. Contact your supplier for safe disposal advice.

2 Glossary

Now that you are in possession of a spa, you will need to understand how to treat the water to avoid a build of contaminants, which could affect your enjoyment of the spa. The table below should provide a helpful guide to recognising some of the terms used within the industry.

pH

This is the term used to indicate whether the water is acidic or alkaline. It uses a scale of 0-14 where 7 is neutral. 7.2-7.4 is ideal for spas

PPM

Chlorine residuals are usually described in PPM (parts per million) or mg/l (milligrams per litre). Between 2 and 3ppm is ideal

Shock Dosing

This requires raising the chlorine levels usually to between 5-10ppm to fight algae or deal with other water problems. Champion Oxidiser can also be used as a shock treatment.

Turnover

This refers to the filter rate and is usually the time it takes to filter the entire contents of the spa.

Testing

You should have bought a test kit, usually test strips, from your spa or chemical supplier. Don't guess, test your water regularly.

Water Balance

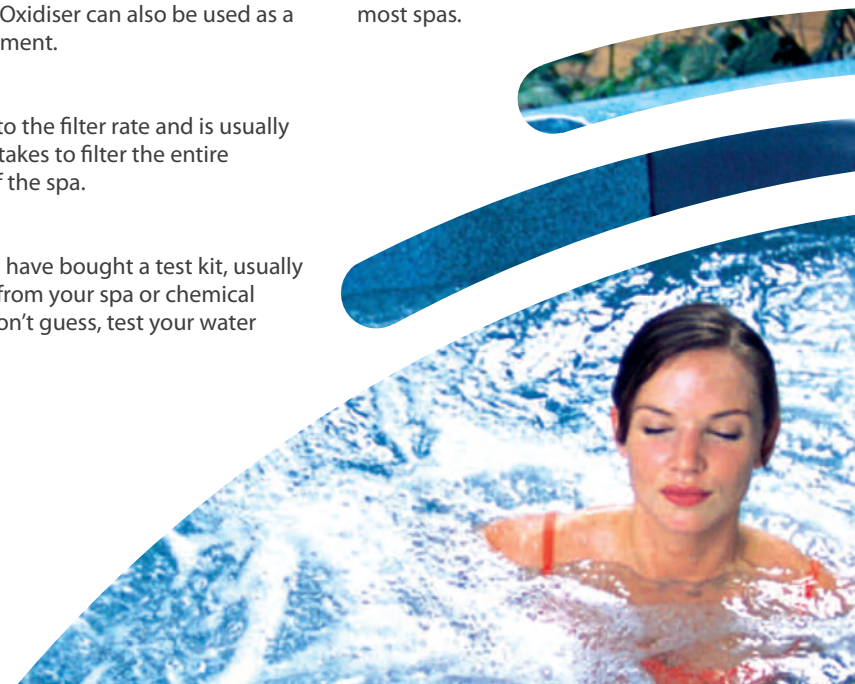
The pH of the water and other factors are tested to establish the nature of the water i.e. is it scale forming or acidic? Adjusting the water balance may be impractical in some spas but alkalinity levels do tend to drop when acid is used to regularly maintain the pH.

Alkalinity

This refers to the measure of alkaline salts relevant to balancing the water.

Calcium Hardness

This level does not usually require adjustment in most spas.



3 Initial Filling

Spas tend to come complete with a cartridge filter. These can vary according to the capacity and type of spa. You should have received some instructions from the manufacturer on the maintenance of your spa. Details of suitable chemical products to use can be found in this guide. It is good practice to drain and refill the spa on a regular basis, depending on the level of usage.

- **Be sure to run the filtration system for a period of 5 time every day, even when it is not being used.**
Some spas are programmed to maintain a constant temperature by filtering slowly when not in use.
- **Make a note of the capacity of your spa.**
The Manufacturer of your spa may have provided you with this detail, otherwise refer to the chart at the end of this guide.
- **Consider the type of water in your area**
eg. if it is scale forming (you will know that from the scale within your kettle) then you will need to lower the pH and in some hard water areas, the alkalinity as well. Use Champion pH Reducer (also known as Dry acid) to lower pH.
- **In soft water areas you may find it necessary to use Champion Alkalinity Increaser or to adjust the pH with Champion pH Increaser (also known as Soda Ash).**

You should aim to achieve a pH of 7.2. With the filter running, you should take time to get this right before adding any chlorine. About a procedure, seek advice from a professional in the pool and spa industry.

- **Add a shock dose of chlorine at the rate of 12 grams per cubic meter of spa water and circulate for 24 hours. Test the water again and dilute with fresh water if the chlorine is above 5ppm.**

? Advice

Chlorine or Bromine?
The choice is yours and both are effective sanitizers. Speak to your supplier if you are unsure

? Tip

Not sure about the spa capacity?
Use the chart at the back of this guide

? Tip

Some spas use Ozone treatment to help maintain the water quality, but a small residual of a sanitizer is still needed.

? Tip

The use of floating dispensers for bromine or chlorine tablets is a popular way of maintaining a residual in your spa water.



4 Normal Routine

- Test for chlorine/bromine daily and test again after use. Until you get used to your spa it would be prudent to test the water an hour or so after adding any chemicals or before allowing yourself or others to use the spa.
- The amount of chlorine needed will depend on the size and temperature of the spa and bather numbers.
- Do not neglect to monitor the pH of the water. Incorrect levels lead to bather discomfort and poor disinfection.
- Maintain a chlorine or bromine level of between 2 and 3 ppm. 1.8grams of Champion Stabilised Chlorine Granules will raise the level by 1ppm in 1 cubic meter of water.

Only when the chemicals have had time to dissolve and circulate within the spa is it safe to enter. Pre dissolving chemicals in warm water aids this process.

- Encouraging everyone to shower before using the spa helps keep the water cleaner and means that you should use fewer chemicals.
- Add Champion No Scale to inhibit the build up of scale and to prevent staining.
- A range of test kits is available but the most popular type to use is Test Strips. Ask your supplier for a demonstration or for alternatives.



? Advice

Champion Oxidiser is a non-chlorine treatment available for those who do not wish to use chlorine.

? Tip

Scale which forms on the side of a spa, the same as inside a kettle, is easy to treat, but unseen damage can be caused to the jets, which can be expensive to replace

? Tip

Spa water volumes are small so care should be taken when measuring the quantity of chemicals. Be cautious.



5 Problem Solving

Some common spa-related problems and their solutions are listed below.

Chlorine/Bromine Smell

- **Possible Cause:** Could be too little chlorine/bromine in the water.
What to do: Test and adjust to between 2–3 ppm(mg/l). Consider shock dosing. Champion Oxidiser, which is also referred to as non chlorine shock, is a good way of doing this so that you can use the spa sooner.
- **Possible Cause:** Too much chlorine.
What to do: Dilute the spa with fresh water.

Green Water

- **Possible Cause:** Usually an algae bloom.
What to do: Shock dose with chlorine or consider draining and refilling. Champion Algicide could be considered if the problem persists.
- **Possible Cause:** Could be an indication of iron content in the water.
What to do: Ask your local pool shop to test the water for you. Avoid copper based Algicides.

Cloudy Water

- **Possible Cause:** Poor or inadequate filtration leading to dirty or blocked filter cartridges.
What to do: Clean the filter with liquid Champion Spa Cartridge Cleaner or a solution using Champion Filter White. Use Champion Spa Sparkle to help the filter remove small particles. Increase the filter run time.

Walls and Floor Slimy

- **Possible Cause:** Lack of chlorine, build up of algae or water mould.

What to do: Brush walls and floor. Increase the chlorine levels. Consider shock dosing.

pH difficult to control

- **Possible Cause:** Very hard or soft water.
What to do: Check the alkalinity and consider balancing the water. Seek advice on this procedure.

Stinging eyes

- **Possible Cause:** pH too high or too low.
What to do: Test and adjust with Champion pH Reducer or Champion pH Increaser accordingly.
- **Possible Cause:** Chlorine level low.
What to do: Test and adjust. Use Champion Oxidiser as a shock treatment to remove unwanted pollution.

? Tip

Regardless of the problem, you should start by testing the chlorine and pH levels and check that the filter system is running and that the cartridges are clean.

? Tip

If there is a possibility of too much chlorine in your water, test a sample diluted with clean tap water.

6 Speciality Chemicals

Foam Reduction

Cosmetics, oils and various forms of pollution all contribute to the production of foam within a spa when air is being introduced. Champion Spa No Foam can be used as a weekly treatment to prevent the foam from forming. It is also very effective as a shock dosing agent in reducing foam.

Clarifying

Champion Spa Sparkle is a liquid that is added to the spa water to aid filtration and is generally suitable for both cartridge and sand filters.

Scale Reduction

Used on a regular basis Champion Spa No Scale prevents the build up of uncomfortable and damaging scale, restricts iron staining and helps maintain swivelling water jets.

Filter Cleaning

A clogged filter can lead to poor water quality. Champion Spa Cartridge Cleaner is a traditional liquid cleaner which is very effective in use.

A granular, concentrated product for filter cleaning is Champion Filter White, which rejuvenates the cartridge when left in a bucket of water overnight.

Surround Cleaning

Champion Scumline Cleaner is a pH neutral product, which is easy to apply from its trigger spray bottle, in cleaning the tide line around a spa or pool.

Cover Cleaning

Champion Polish & Cover Cleaner helps to maintain the shine of your spa and to clean the heat retention cover.

? Advice

Consider having a spare cartridge to use whilst one is being cleaned



7 Dosing Guides/Levels

Please refer to the dosing instructions on the back of the chemical container and heed the warnings as this can vary from one product to another. Do not mix chemicals other than within the spa water. Always add chemicals to water and never the other way around.

Ideal Levels	Initial Quantity (per 1000 litres)	Product Required	On a regular basis (per 1000 litres)
Chlorine 3ppm(mg/l)	10 grams	Champion Stabilised Chlorine Granules Champion Chlorine Tablets	1.8 grams Ensure there is a sufficient quantity in the feeder to maintain levels
Bromine 3ppm(mg/l)	18 grams (normally 1 tablet)	Champion Bromine Tablets	Sufficient to maintain level of 3ppm
pH 7.2		Champion pH Reducer or Champion pH Increaser	10g 10g
Alkalinity 100ppm		Champion Alkalinity Increaser	20g
Calcium Hardness >250ppm		Champion Water Hardener	15g
Scale Inhibitor		Champion Spa No Scale	50mls

Spa Size Guide

Spa Volumes:

To calculate the volume of your spa in cubic metres:

Length x width x average depth = Cubic Metres (1000 litres) Or, Length x width x Average depth x 6.25 = Gallons

Or, for a Round spa:

Radius x Radius x 3.142 x Depth = Cubic Metres
1 cubic metre = 1000 litres

Typical examples of spa dimensions:

(Please note that these are only given as a guideline and are not exact)

- 2m x 1.6m spa: capacity 630 litres (0.63 cubic metres)
- 2m x 2m Spa capacity 1000 litres (1cubic metre)

Always shower before entering the spa.

Brenntag promotes the Champion range of pool and spa chemicals via authorised dealers across the UK. Please contact your local dealer for further advice on the application of the products.

Brenntag can put you in touch with your local Champion dealer by contacting the Leisure team on 0113 3879200.



Speak to your local Brenntag representative now and see what a difference we can make to your business.



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