



freshwater™

Salt System Start-up Guide

Getting Started

It is recommended to take a sample of your tap water to your dealer before filling your spa to determine if your water contains high levels of calcium and/or metals.

If you are filling with well water or have metal issues, it is recommended to fill your spa using the Clean Screen® pre-filter. **Follow instructions in step 2 - Treat for Metals.**

If you have high calcium hardness above 300 ppm, fill the spa using the On The Go® portable water softener or other soft water source to the specified hardness.

1 Fill Your Spa

Important: Power must always be OFF when spa is empty.

Fill your spa through the filter compartment until the water level reaches 1" (2.5 cm) above the highest jet in the spa.

Once spa is filled with water, turn the power on and check the operation of the jet systems.

Set the temperature to your desired level (see spa Owner's Manual).

Note: The water care icon and logo light (if equipped) may flash until water temperature is above 95°F (35°C).

2 Treat for Metals

Important: If there are metals present in the water, they must be removed before starting up the FreshWater® Salt System.

Treat for metals with Clean Screen pre-filter and Stain and Scale Control.

Wait 24 hours before turning the Salt System on or adding any chlorine (shock).

System Start-up



1 Balance Water

Test your water using a FreshWater 5-Way Test Strip. Review pH, alkalinity, and calcium hardness levels to determine if your water is in the OK range for the Salt System and adjust as needed.

Salt System Parameters	Target	OK Range	
		Min	Max
Salt	1,750 ppm	1,500 ppm	2,000 ppm
Hardness	50 ppm	25 ppm	75 ppm
Alkalinity	80 ppm	40 ppm	120 ppm
pH	7.4	7.2	7.8
Chlorine	3 ppm	1 ppm	5 ppm



2 Add Salt

To find the correct water capacity of your spa model, see the back cover of your spa Owner's Manual.

With jets running add 2½ cups salt per 100 gallons (380 liters) of water to the filter compartment, one cup at a time, and allow five minutes for the salt to dissolve. Use FreshWater Salt Test Strips to verify the salt level is around 1,750 ppm.

Spa Capacity		Salt Addition	Initial Output Setting
Gallons	Liters		
200	760	4 ½	Level 5
250	950	5 ¾	Level 5
300	1,140	7	Level 6
350	1,330	8	Level 6
400	1,520	9 ¼	Level 6
450	1,710	10 ¼	Level 6
500	1,900	11 ½	Level 7
550	2,090	12 ½	Level 7
600	2,280	13 ¾	Level 7



3 Shock

Add concentrated chlorinating granules or liquid chlorine as directed on the bottle to create an instant chlorine residual of 5 ppm.

Allow jets to run for 5 minutes per jet system, rotating diverter and water feature valves.



4 Reduce Hardness

If needed, use Vanishing Act® or Vanishing Act XL to reduce calcium hardness to 50 ppm.

Follow instructions on the box.

More than one Vanishing Act and/or a Vanishing Act XL may be needed.



5 Set Output Level

Access the water care menu on your control panel.

Scroll through Levels 0 - 10 by pressing the + or - button.

- | | |
|-----------|--------------------------|
| Level 0 | System off |
| Level 1 | Vacation/Low output mode |
| Level 2-7 | Normal use (recommended) |
| Level 8-9 | High use settings |
| Level 10 | Maximum output |

The recommended initial output level setting is between 5-7 depending on your spa water capacity (see table).

24 Hours Later

- 💧 If applicable, remove Vanishing Act and discard in your normal trash.
- 💧 Test spa water with a FreshWater 5-way test strip and adjust alkalinity and pH as needed. **If calcium hardness level still reads above the recommended range of 50 ppm, use an additional Vanishing Act at this time.**
- 💧 If there is not at least 3 ppm of chlorine in the water, manually add concentrated chlorinating granules or liquid chlorine to reach 3 ppm. **Repeat this step each day until the Salt System can independently maintain the target chlorine residual.**

Important: The Salt System cleans the water before it produces a chlorine residual. If there is not a measurable amount of chlorine in the spa water after 24 hours, this is an indication that the Salt System is still cleaning the water. If there are contaminants in the water, or you use the spa often initially, it may take the Salt System a few days to clean the spa water and keep up with your chlorine demand.

Tips to get the best performance from your FreshWater Salt System

The FreshWater Salt System makes spa ownership simple and easy by reducing the amount of time required to care for your spa water. It is important to note that maintaining balanced and sanitized spa water is ultimately the responsibility of the spa owner.

- 💧 **10-day check-up:** Every 10 days the water care icon on the control panel and the spa logo light (if equipped) will flash as a reminder to check your spa by testing and balancing your spa water and confirming your Output Level. The 10-day timer will reset any time you adjust your output level. If you do not perform the 10-day maintenance routine, the system will default to Low Output Mode.
- 💧 **Keep calcium hardness level at or below 50 ppm** to maximize cartridge life.
- 💧 **Test and balance spa water** to keep pH and alkalinity levels within the OK range.
- 💧 **Test for chlorine regularly** and adjust the Output Level up or down to maintain 1 to 5 ppm chlorine. Concentrated chlorinating granules or liquid chlorine can be added to supplement the system.
- 💧 **Set the output level as low as possible** to meet your normal, everyday chlorine needs. Use the 24-Hour Boost cycle for heavier than normal use.
- 💧 **Use low output level settings when appropriate.** Set the output to Level 1 if you are not going to use the spa for an extended amount of time.