

# SPA CHOICE<sup>®</sup>



## Spa Guide

*Simple Steps to a Clean, Sparkling Spa*

[www.yourspachoice.com](http://www.yourspachoice.com)

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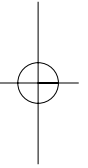
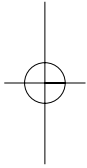
*Nothing is more inviting than a sparkling clean spa.  
The **Spa Choice**<sup>®</sup> brand of products are designed to meet all of  
your spa needs so you spend less time maintaining your spa and  
more time relaxing in it.*

*The **Spa Choice**<sup>®</sup> **Spa Kit** provides all the essential products you  
need to open your spa. Follow the simple steps listed in this guide  
to a clean, sparkling spa.*

# Spa Choice® Spa Guide

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# Before You Fill Your Spa

## What You Need to Know



Before filling your spa, we recommend bringing a sample of your tap water to a professional spa retailer for testing to determine what type of water you have in your area. (Do *not* use the water from a water softener.) Do you have soft water? The lack of minerals in soft water can be very harsh to your spa's equipment, causing damage to your pump and heater. Do you have hard water? The excessive minerals in hard water can cause scale build-up on spa surfaces and may corrode the equipment.

For these reasons, it is essential to recognize your water type so the correct chemical adjustments are made. In "*Step B - Balancing Your Spa Water*", you will be introduced to the ***Spa Choice***<sup>®</sup> products specifically designed to correct your particular water type. These products are included with your ***Spa Choice***<sup>®</sup> *Spa Kit*.

Go onto "*Step A...Filling Your Spa*".



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## STEP A...Filling Your Spa

***You will need:***

***Spa Choice® Metal Free***

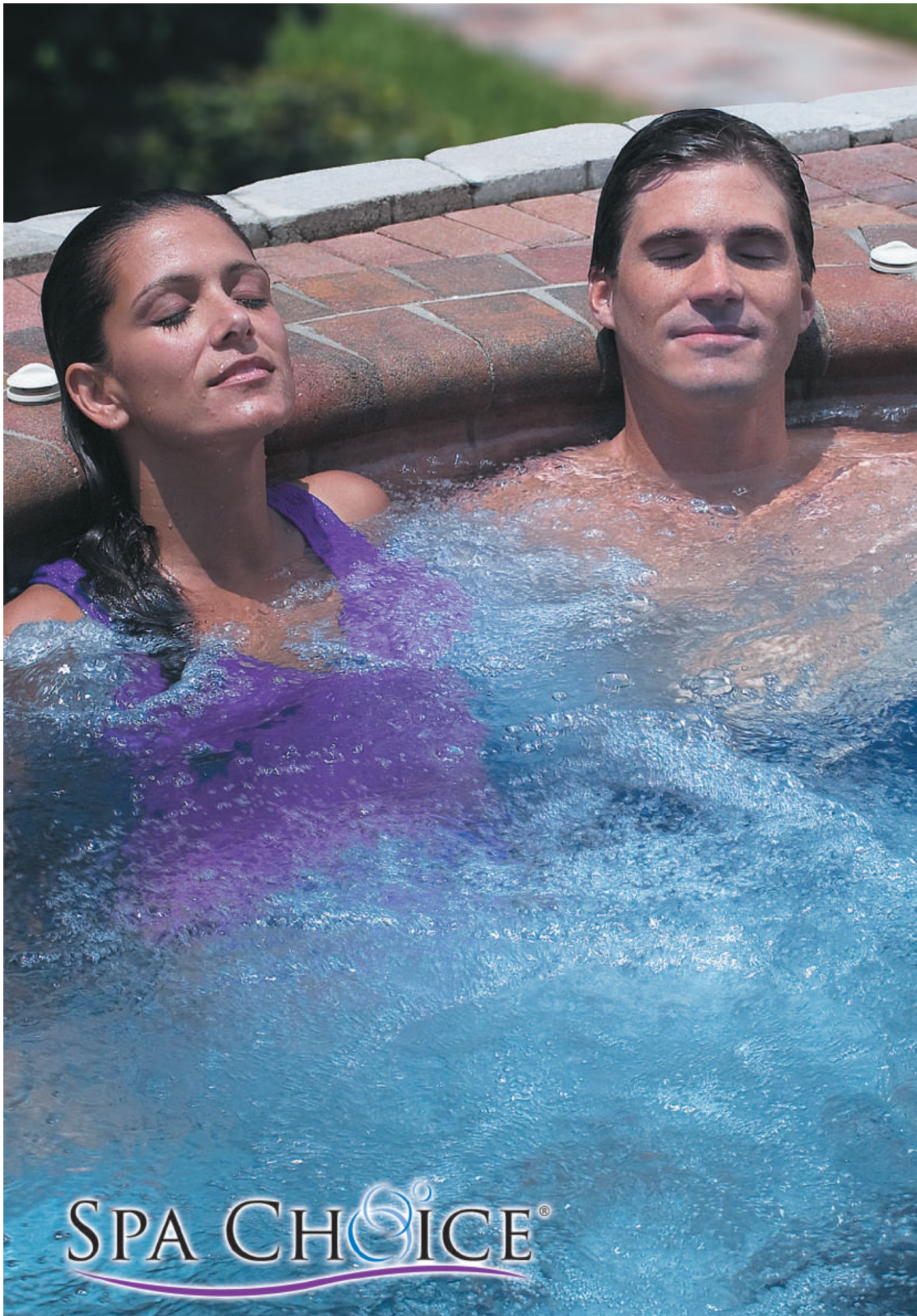
Now it's time to fill your spa. If you are using a garden hose, let the water run for a few minutes before placing the hose into the spa. This will ensure that the microorganisms that build up in the hose during inactivity will not contaminate your spa. Fill the spa according to the directions recommended by your spa owner's manual.

Once the spa is full, a sequestering agent should be added to the spa water to prevent metal staining and corrosion to your spa's finish. Use ***Spa Choice® Metal Free*** now, and every time you fill your spa.

- 1. Add one bottle (1 pint) of **Spa Choice® Metal Free** around the spa waterline.*
- 2. Circulate the water for 30 minutes.*

***Go onto “Step B...Balancing Your Spa Water”***





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## STEP B...Balancing Your Spa Water

Balancing your spa water is a very important step to a clean spa. When your spa water is in balance, your sanitizer will perform at its optimum level, providing a clean, sanitized spa. In this step, you will be adjusting your calcium hardness level first, your total alkalinity second, and lastly, the pH.

### Calcium Hardness

*You will need:*

*Spa Choice® Increase Calcium*

*- or -*

*Spa Choice® Defense*

When balancing your spa water, always adjust the calcium hardness level first. To determine your calcium hardness level, bring a sample of your tap water to your professional spa retailer for testing, as suggested in the first section; or you may test your water with a calcium hardness test. The ideal calcium hardness level should fall between 200 and 400 ppm.

**Hard Water:** A high calcium hardness level (hard water) creates salt deposits which encourage the growth of calcium crystals. This can cause a chalky build-up on your spa surface and equipment. It can also be the cause of cloudy water. The recommended calcium hardness level should not exceed 400 ppm. If your calcium hardness level is high, add *Spa Choice® Defense* now and once each week, to maintain a desirable calcium hardness level.

- 1. For spas up to 800 gallons, add 2 oz. of **Spa Choice® Defense** directly to the spa.*
- 2. Circulate the spa for 1 hour.*

**Soft Water:** A low calcium hardness level (soft water) can etch the spa's plaster and corrode the equipment. The recommended calcium hardness level should not fall below 200 ppm. Add *Spa Choice® Increase Calcium* to raise the calcium hardness level.

1. *Determine your calcium hardness level. One ounce of Spa Choice® Increase Calcium per 500 gallons increases the hardness level by 7 ppm.*
2. *Pour the determined amount into the spa with the circulation on.*
3. *Circulate the water for 20 minutes.*

## Alkalinity

***You will need:***

*Test Strips*

*Spa Choice® Alkalinity Up*

When the total alkalinity level is in range, it acts as a buffer to keep the pH level constant. *Always adjust the alkalinity before adjusting the pH.* The recommended total alkalinity level is 80 – 140 parts per million (ppm). Use the *Test Strips* that come with your *Spa Choice® Spa Kit* to determine your spa's total alkalinity level. Add *Spa Choice® Alkalinity Up* to adjust your total alkalinity.

If the total alkalinity reads outside the recommended range:

1. *Dissolve 1 oz. (2 tablespoons) of Spa Choice® Alkalinity Up in a small plastic pail of water and add to spa.*
2. *Allow water to circulate for 30 minutes.*
3. *Retest alkalinity level of the spa water and repeat, if necessary, until the recommended level is reached.*

## Increasing or Decreasing Your pH

### *You will need:*

*Test Strips*

*Spa Choice® Increase pH*

*- or -*

*Spa Choice® Reduce pH*

Now that your total alkalinity is in range, the next step is to determine your pH level. The recommended pH level is 7.2 to 7.8. If the pH is above 7.8, the water is considered alkaline. If it is below 7.2, it is considered acidic.

To determine your spa's pH level, use the *Test Strips* that come with your *Spa Choice® Spa Kit*.

**If your test shows a high pH reading:** A high pH level can cause destructive scale build-up. Use *Spa Choice® Reduce pH* to lower your pH to the desired level.

1. Turn on circulation system of spa.
2. Add 1 oz. of *Spa Choice® Reduce pH*.
3. Allow the water to circulate for 30 minutes.
4. Retest the pH level of the spa water and repeat, if necessary, until the recommended level is reached.

**If your test shows a low pH reading:** A low pH level can corrode metals and cause damage to your spa equipment. Use *Spa Choice® Increase pH* to raise your pH to the desired level.

1. Turn on circulation system of your spa.
2. Add 1 oz. of *Spa Choice® Increase pH* for every 100 gallons of spa water.
3. Allow the water to circulate for 30 minutes.
4. Retest the pH level of the spa water and repeat, if necessary, until the recommended level is reached.

**Go onto “Step C...Sanitizing and Shocking Your Spa”**



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# STEP C...Sanitizing and Shocking Your Spa

## Chlorine or Bromine

### *You will need:*

*Test Strips*

*Spa Choice® Spa Sanitizing Granules;*

*- or -*

*Spa Choice® Brominating Tabs; and*

*Spa Choice® Bromine Booster*

Sanitizing is the most important step in maintaining a clean, healthy spa. Bacteria and algae tend to grow more rapidly in hot water. Therefore, it is necessary to maintain your sanitizer at the recommended level at all times. Your *Spa Choice® Spa Kit* is available with either *Chlorine* or *Bromine*.

**Chlorine** is the most common type of sanitizer used to kill bacteria and algae in spas. It works quickly and is simple to use. If chlorine is your method of disinfection, *Spa Choice® Spa Sanitizing Granules* will keep your spa crystal clean.

*(For Freshly-Filled Spas)*

- 1. Turn on the circulation system of your spa.*
- 2. Use a clean, dry spoon and scatter 6 teaspoons of **Spa Choice® Spa Sanitizing Granules** for each 500 gallons, over the surface of the spa water.*
- 3. Test the Free Available Chlorine (FAC) with your **test strips**.  
*If the FAC reads below 4-5 ppm, repeat as needed.**
- 4. Do not enter the spa until the FAC has dropped to 3-5 ppm.*

*(Maintenance Use)*

- 1. Turn on the circulation system of your spa.*
- 2. Use a clean, dry spoon and scatter 3 teaspoons of **Spa Choice® Spa Sanitizing Granules** for each 500 gallons, over the surface of the spa water. Do not enter the spa until the chlorine level falls between 3 and 5 ppm.*

**Bromine** is another type of sanitizer used to kill bacteria and germs in spas. The bromine is placed in a floating feeder or cartridge system and is used in conjunction with sodium bromide, an activator. Many people prefer bromine over chlorine, as it does not produce a “chlorine odor”. If bromine is your method of disinfection, use *Spa Choice® Brominating Tablets*, along with *Spa Choice® Bromine Booster* to keep your spa sanitized and sparkling.

1. Add ½ oz. *Spa Choice® Bromine Booster* per 100 gallons of spa water.
2. Place 3 tablets of *Spa Choice® Brominating Tablets* per 300 gallons in your floating feeder or automatic brominator installed on your spa’s equipment. Adjust the feeder or brominator to obtain an active bromine residual of at least 2 ppm at all times.
3. For maintenance use, fill your feeder every 5-7 days with 3 tablets per 300 gallons of water. Do not enter the spa until the bromine level falls between 2 and 5 ppm.

*You are now ready to enjoy your spa!  
Go onto the next section for information on weekly shock.*



## Shock

### *You will need:*

*Spa Choice® Re-Energize*

*-or-*

*Spa Choice® Spa Sanitizing Granules*

To maintain a healthy and safe spa it is important to shock your water weekly. There are two different methods for shocking your spa; non-chlorine and chlorine shock.

**Non-Chlorine Shock:** Non-chlorine shock may be used in chlorine-sanitized and bromine-sanitized spas. In a bromine-sanitized spa, it should be applied after a reserve of chlorine or bromine has been established. Non-chlorine shock oxidizes the spa water and removes organic contaminants, such as soap film, dead skin, perspiration, oils and lotions. Organic materials tend to build up in your spa, causing cloudy water and clogged filters. We recommend that *Spa Choice® Re-Energize* be used *weekly, or after each use*, whichever is more frequent.

1. Turn on the circulation system of your spa.
2. Sprinkle 2 oz. per 375 gallons of *Spa Choice® Re-Energize* over the surface of the spa.
3. Allow the product to fully circulate in the water before using the spa.

*Note: Non-chlorine shock is not a substitute for a sanitizer.*

**Chlorine Shock:** If you use chlorine to sanitize your spa, you may also use chlorine as a shock treatment. We recommend that you shock your spa with *Spa Choice® Spa Sanitizing Granules* after every use to control odors and algae.

1. Turn on the circulation system of your spa.
2. Add 9 teaspoons of *Spa Choice® Spa Sanitizing Granules* per 500 gallons to control odors and algae.
3. Do not enter the spa until the FAC has dropped to 3-5 ppm.

# Guide to Spa Maintenance

The following is a suggested schedule to maintain a clean, healthy spa.

## Three Times A Week

**Test:** Use your 3-way test strips to determine whether your spa water falls within acceptable ranges for pH, total alkalinity, and Free Available Chlorine (FAC). Perform these tests a minimum of 3 times per week and adjust with the appropriate chemicals as needed.

Test	Acceptable Level	Products to Adjust
Ph	7.2 - 7.8	Spa Choice Increase Ph Spa Choice Reduce Ph
Total Alkalinity	80 - 140	Spa Choice Increase Calcium
Free Available Chlorine	3 - 5 ppm	Spa Choice Spa Sanitizing Granules
Bromine	2 - 5 ppm (minimum 2 ppm)	Spa Choice Brominating Tablets
Calcium Hardness	200-400 ppm	Spa Choice Increase Calcium Spa Choice Defense

## Weekly

**Calcium Hardness:** For hard water areas, add 2 oz. of *Spa Choice® Defense* weekly, for spas up to 800 gallons.

**Shock:** Shock treat your spa at least once a week, using *Spa Choice® Re-Energize* or *Spa Choice® Spa Sanitizing Granules*. During more frequent use or heavy bather loads, *shock after each use*.

## Monthly

**Cartridge Filter:** Clean your filter once a month to ensure that your system is working properly. Use a filter soaking agent, such as

*Spa Choice® Filter Clean & Clear*, which is specially designed to remove organics and dirt.

### Every 2 to 3 Months

**Empty and Refill:** It is recommended that your spa be emptied and refilled every 60 to 90 days. A heavily used spa may require more frequent emptying and refilling. Remember to follow Steps A, B, and C of this guide when refilling your spa.



# Spa Water Troubleshooting Guide

My Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
My water is cloudy	Water is out of balance	Test your pH and alkalinity. Apply <b>Spa Choice Increase pH</b> or <b>Spa Choice Reduce pH</b> and <b>Spa Choice Alkalinity Up</b> , as needed.
	Sanitizer Level is Low	Test the FAC and apply <b>Spa Choice Brominating Tabs</b> or <b>Spa Choice Spa Sanitizing Granules</b> as needed.
	Water is not circulating enough	The water should circulate 4-6 hours per day.
	Filter is dirty	Use <b>Spa Choice Filter Clean &amp; Clear</b> to soak your filter once a month. A clean filter will remove most contaminants that create cloudy water. Apply 2 oz. of <b>Spa Choice Clear &amp; Sparkle</b> to clarify the water.
	The calcium hardness level might be too high	Test with a calcium hardness test or take your water to your spa retailer for testing. Use <b>Spa Choice Defense</b> to raise the calcium hardness level.
My water is foamy	Buildup of bather oils and other contaminants	To eliminate foam, apply 3 oz of <b>Spa Choice Foam Free</b> directly to the foam.
	The calcium hardness level might be too low.	Test with a calcium hardness test or take your water to your spa retailer for testing. Use <b>Spa Choice Increase Calcium</b> to raise the calcium level in your spa.

# Spa Water Troubleshooting Guide

My Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
My water irritates my eyes, skin.	Water is out of balance	Test your pH and alkalinity. Apply <b>Spa Choice Increase pH</b> or <b>Spa Choice Reduce pH</b> and <b>Spa Choice Alkalinity Up</b> , as needed.
	Organic Contaminants	Shock your spa with <b>Spa Choice Re-Energize</b> and add 1 oz of <b>Spa Choice Enzyme Clear</b> per 250 gallons to remove organic contaminants too small for your filter to remove.
	Water is not circulating enough	The water should circulate 4-6 hours per day.
My water is brown or green.	Usually caused by metals in water	Apply a full bottle (1 pint) of <b>Spa Choice Metal Free</b> . Then test for pH and adjust.

If you are unable to solve your particular problem, it might be time to empty your spa and refill. Your spa should be emptied and filled with fresh water every 60 to 90 days, or more frequently during times of heavy bather load and use. Remember to follow Steps A, B, and C of this guide when refilling your spa.

# The Complete Line of Spa Choice® Products

## Sanitizers and Shock

*Spa Choice® Brominating Tabs* is a bactericide, algaecide and disinfectant with no chlorine odor. Use with *Spa Choice® Bromine Booster* to activate this sanitizer.

*Spa Choice® Spa Sanitizing Granules* is a disinfectant that works quickly and completely to provide a steady source of available chlorine in your spa. It controls the growth of algae, kills bacteria, and destroys organic contaminants.

*Spa Choice® Re-Energize* is a non-chlorine shock with no chlorine odor. This product oxidizes organic contaminants, such as ammonia, perspiration, and suntan oils; and will enhance the sanitizing effect of bromine or chlorine.

## Water Balance Products

*Spa Choice® Increase Calcium* increases the calcium hardness level of your spa water in areas with low levels of hardness. Low hardness can etch plaster and corrode the equipment.

*Spa Choice® Increase pH* is an easy-to disperse solution that raises the pH in your spa.

*Spa Choice® Reduce pH* is an easy-to disperse solution that reduces the pH in your spa.

*Spa Choice® Control the pH* eliminates pH drift in spas. A unique buffering action allows for easy and more exact adjustment of pH.

*Spa Choice® pH Decreaser* - a granular product that reduces the pH in your spa.

*Spa Choice® pH Increaser* - a granular product that raises the pH in your spa.

*Spa Choice® Alkalinity Up* – critical to alkalinity control, this product effectively raises alkalinity levels which might otherwise cause equipment corrosion in your spa.

### Specialty Products

*Spa Choice® Bromine Booster* establishes a quick bromide reserve in your spa water. Use with *Spa Choice® Brominating Tabs*.

*Spa Choice® Metal Free* prevents metal staining and corrosion. Add when filling or refilling your spa.

*Spa Choice® Foam Free* eliminates annoying foam from your spa or hot tub quickly and easily.

*Spa Choice® Filter Clean & Clear* greatly improves your filter's life and efficiency by removing suntan oil, grease, scale and mineral deposits. Good for all filter types.

*Spa Choice® Enzyme Clear* is a natural enzyme cleaner that eliminates oils, lotions, and organics that cause scum and odors in spa water.

*Spa Choice® Defense* helps prevent the formation of scale build-up on spa surfaces and equipment.

*Spa Choice® Clean 'N Fast* is an all purpose cleaner for use in and around spas. This product also removes dirt and grime from spa covers.

*Spa Choice® Clear & Sparkle* a clarifier that is a fast-acting, hot-water formula which aids in the removal of dirt, organics, and oils to rapidly clear your spa.

*Spa Choice® Seal A Leak* is highly effective for sealing minor leaks in spas and hot tubs.

## Fragrances

*Spa Choice® Amazon Mist*  
*Spa Choice® Caribbean Breeze*  
*Spa Choice® Jamaican Melon*  
*Spa Choice® Soft Eucalyptus*  
*Spa Choice® Wild Lavender*  
*Spa Choice® Tropical Fruit*

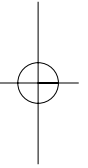
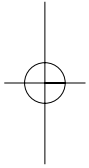
Especially formulated for spas, the *Spa Choice®* line of fragrances will leave your skin soft and moisturized.

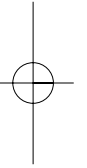
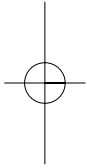


## SPA SAFETY



- If you are pregnant or have a medical history of heart disease, low or high blood pressure, circulatory problems, or diabetes, you should consult your physician before using a spa.
- Do not use the spa for extended periods of time. Use a timer and set a limit. Prolonged immersion in hot water can result in hyperthermia.
- Avoid alcohol when using your spa.
- Spa users with long hair should avoid placing their head underwater near suction fittings.
- Use an accurate thermometer to test the water temperature before use. Do not heat the spa water to temperatures above 104 degrees.
- Never allow children to use the spa without adult supervision.
- When children are using the spa, the temperature should not be set higher than 100 degrees.
- Always add chemicals to water. Never add water to chemicals.
- Do not combine chemicals. Add separately.
- Maintain your sanitizer level.
- Keep chemicals away from children.
- Know how to disconnect power to your spa in case of emergency.





Item number: 01611434

**Suncoast Chemicals Company**  
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