

THE HOT TUB WIZARD



*The Ultimate Guide
To Saving Money
Maintaining Your
Hot Spring Ace Hot Tub*

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I want to help you get the most from your Ace equipped hot tub. For over 30 years I have been helping people enjoy their pools and spas like never before and have managed water quality for everything from hot tubs to swimming pools over 1,000,000 gallons and I can help you too. Pools, spas and hot tubs are a luxury and should be enjoyed, not despised.

Unless you were given your Ace equipped Hot Spring Spa, you probably put down a lot of money for it. Like most people, you love your Ace equipped tub but are finding it to be a money pit. The good news is it doesn't have to be that way and I will show you how to save a lot of time, money and enjoy it even more. You will also be able to extend draining to every 6 - 12 months and still have exceptional water quality.

Let's look at all the maintenance supplies you get bombarded with and see what you really need and their alternatives.

Hot Spring Ace Cell 76078

If you haven't replaced your cell yet, this will be your biggest shock. Currently, it is costing people between \$ 800-1,000.00 for a replacement that is typically lasting between 1-2 years. This is disturbing for a lot of people. Some may mistake the initial shock as a heart attack.

There is a simple DIY solution for this that will save you hundreds of dollars and can be found with complete instructions at: <https://acesaltcellreplacement.com>

Now how to deal with the endless things you are sold to put in the water plus the cheap and easy alternatives.

FreshWater Spa Salt for ACE

Now on to salt. Having dealt with salt systems for over 20 years, I have seen all kinds of "specialty" salts that are "magically special" for pools and hot tubs so you can get charged an insane amount of money for it. Salt is plentiful and cheap. Exotic salts typically have minerals which are good in a bath tub but when put into a pool or hot tub will be oxidized out and end up in your filter. This is BS, the only thing that you need for a pool or hot tub is salt with no iodine or anti caking additives. For hot tubs I recommend canning and pickling salt. 4 pounds will cost around \$1.50 - 3.00 at Walmart or your local grocery store. If you want a cheap, long term supply get 40 pounds of solar salt for around \$ 6.00 at your local home improvement or hardware store.

The nice thing about canning and pickling salt is that it is very fine and dissolves almost instantly plus comes in an easy to manage package.

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Freshwater Chlorine Granular

Even though granular chlorine, no matter what the brand, is the single most used sanitizer in hot tubs and happens to be the single worst thing you can use. It contains stabilizer, more commonly called conditioner which builds up quickly in the water and prevents chlorine from being an effective sanitizer. This causes cloudy water and frequent draining. Some states prohibit stabilized chlorine from being used in public pools and spas because of this. Using unscented household bleach instead of granular chlorine will help prevent rashes, itching and frequent draining.

Use 1/4 cup for 2-3 person tubs and 1/2 cup for 4-6 person tubs.

Freshwater pH Down/Alkalinity Down

This product can be substituted with white vinegar to lower the pH and alkalinity. To lower pH.

Add 1 cup for 2-3 person tubs and 2 cups for 4-6 person tubs. To lower alkalinity, turn off tub, add 1 quart for 2-3 person tubs and 2 quarts in 4-6 person tubs. Let stand for 1-2 hours. pH will be low but will come back up by the next day and won't hurt anything.

Freshwater pH UP/Alkalinity Up

This product can be substituted with ordinary baking soda.

Add 1-2 tablespoons at a time.

Freshwater Hot Spring MPS Spa Shock

This product can be substituted with household bleach and in many cases, ozone will almost eliminate the need for it. Ozone is a great compliment to any salt system. Some people have allergic reactions to MPS which leads to rashes and itching.

To shock, add 1 cup of bleach for 2-3 person tubs and 2 cups for 4-6 person tubs. Leave cover open for 1-2 hours and use 24 hours later. Shock your hot tub monthly and after heavy use.

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Hot Spring Cover Shield

This product can be substituted with Meguiar's M40 Mirror Glaze Vinyl & Rubber Cleaner & Conditioner. The best rubber and vinyl cleaner & protectant I have ever used. It does not leave a greasy residue which attracts dirt and can be used with amazing results on your car as well. It is longer lasting than any other product I have used.

Hot Spring Spas 76766 Instant filter cleaner

Many natural, biodegradable products can be used to clean your filter. Just make sure they do not contain phosphates and rinse thoroughly. Better yet, many people put their filters horizontally in the dishwasher and flip over half way through the cycle. Turn off heat drying when doing this.

Hot Spring Spas Freshwater Ag+ Continuous Silver Ion Sanitizer

Silver ions can aid in water sanitizing but too much is not a good thing. The cartridges last about 4 months and can be costly. I prefer using ozone even though I have customers that tell me their dealer removes the ozone if they have an ACE system.

Hot Spring Spas Freshwater Defoamer

Foam in a hot tub is caused by soap being introduced into the water, phosphates or bacteria. Soap and phosphate related foam is white while foam caused by bacteria tends to have a grey or brown tint. Foaming and weird looking water can also occur after teenage girls use the hot tub.

Using phosphate remover at fill and then monthly will in many cases prevent this. Since phosphates consume chlorine, it will also require a higher setting to maintain an acceptable chlorine level or make it impossible if the level is too high which shortens the life of your cell. Every source of water I have ever tested contains phosphates and the level typically increases with residue from freshly laundered swimsuits. If for some reason, you get soap in your hot tub, use defamer sparingly. Most people use much more than necessary. Phosphate remover will also cause the water to turn milky which is normal and will clear up by the next day. After the water clears up, hose off the filter(s) or put in your dishwasher.

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Hot Spring Freshwater Stain and Scale

Unless you fill with well water with metals and calcium, you do not need to use this. Bad well water can also be filtered with a hose filter to remove a lot of these problematic elements. Using stain and scale with the silver ions will make them mostly ineffective and cause them to be filtered out.

HotSpring Spa Vanishing Act Calcium Remover

Due to the design of the Ace cell, it is necessary to maintain a low hardness to help keep the cell clean. Some hardness is necessary for proper water balance which keeps the water from being corrosive. The Scepter replacement cell has a clear housing and plate spacing which makes it easy to inspect and clean. If your hardness is less than 300 then don't worry about using vanishing act pillows if you have The Scepter replacement cell.

Freshwater Hot Springs Spa Ace Cell Salt Water Cleaner

All you need to clean your salt cell is white vinegar. This is mild and will not damage your cell. Simply soak your cell for 20-30 minutes. Also, before declaring your OEM salt cell dead, turn off the breaker to your hot tub, soak your cell in vinegar, drop your cell in the water and restore power. The Ace system will start up in boost mode after a few minutes if the cell is operational and you will see small bubbles coming out the top of the cell. It is also recommended you check your salt level as an aging or calcified cell will give a low salt warning which prompts users to add more salt. When the cell is cleaned or replaced without a water change it may read high salt and shut down with a call for service message.

Note: The OEM cell is opaque and almost impossible to determine if there is calcium buildup. Go through the cleaning process if you get errors. The Scepter has a clear housing so you can see if there is scale buildup on the plates.

If you want to scent your water I recommend using pure essential oils as some of them will also help with reducing the chlorine level needed to keep your water clear.

These recommendations will help you get the most from your Ace system for the least amount of money. If you have further questions please email:
mail@thehottubwizard.com

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The Easy Way To Startup Your Ace Tub

1. Drain tub.
2. Start re-filling
3. Add correct amount of salt. These amounts may vary slightly but get you close.
 1. For a 350 Gallon Spa: Divide 350 Gal by 100 and multiply by 2.0 to get the amount to add in cups. $(350 / 100 * 2.0) = 3.5 \times 2.0 = 7.0$ cups.
 2. For a 1250 liter Spa: Divide 1250 liters by 379 and multiply by 0.681 to get the amount to add in kg. $(1250 / 379 * 0.681) = 3.3 \times 0.681 = 2.25$ kg and for cups $(1250 / 379 = 3.3 \times 2.0 = 7$ cups)
4. Add bleach and white vinegar

1 cup each of household bleach and white vinegar for 2-3 person tubs or 2 cups each for 4-6 person tubs.
5. Add baking soda if your alkalinity is below 80, 1 - 2 tablespoons at a time.
5. Once filled, turn on pump and add 1 oz. of phosphate remover if you have it.
6. Let circulate, heat up and enjoy!

Don't worry about hardness unless under 200 or over 400.

Easy Regular Maintenance

1. After heavy use, add 1 cup of bleach and white vinegar.
2. Add 1 cup white vinegar 1 to 2 times weekly for pH control
3. Shock monthly with 1 cup each of bleach and vinegar for 2-3 person tubs and 2 cups each of bleach and vinegar for 4-6 person tubs.
4. Add 1/2 oz. phosphate remover if you have it.
5. If alkalinity is high, turn off tub, and add 1 gallon of white vinegar, leave cover off for 1 hour, then turn back on and close cover. You may need to do this multiple times if alkalinity is real high.
6. Switch leads on Ace cell. (Helps extend life)

NOTE: If you leave for extended periods of time, add 1 cup each of bleach and vinegar. Then forget about it and enjoy your time away.