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Congratulations on your new Spa from Cada Pools and Spas!

This start up chemical kit is everything you'll need to get you to enjoy your spa in no time.

It includes:

- **Inline or Floating Frog Brominating Cartridge** – replace every 3-4 weeks, slowly releases bromine
- **Inline or Floating Frog Mineral Cartridge** – replace every 4 months
- **Leisure Time Metal Gon** (metal remover) – add to spa upon filling
- **SpaGuard Enhanced Shock** (before use and after use shock) – This product helps raise your bromine/chlorine to the recommended level. Always test the water first before shocking.
- **SpaGuard Stain and Scale Control** (scale inhibitor) – (2oz Per week)
- **SpaGuard pH Decreaser** (pH decrease) – as needed
- **SpaGuard pH Increaser** (pH increase) – as needed

Here are some **tips** to get you started in maintaining your spa and the water within it.

Inline or Floating Frog Brominating Cartridge

- **What it does:** Gradually dispenses bromine sanitizer into the water over 3–4 weeks.
- **Why it's important:** Keeps the spa continuously disinfected by killing bacteria and harmful pathogens without requiring daily chemical dosing.

Inline or Floating Frog Mineral Cartridge

- **What it does:** Releases natural minerals into the water over a 4-month lifespan.
- **Why it's important:** Reduces the total amount of harsh chemical sanitizers needed by up to 50%, resulting in softer-feeling water and less skin and eye irritation.

Leisure Time Metal Gon

- **What it does:** Binds up trace metals (such as iron and copper) present in fresh fill water.
- **Why it's important:** Prevents metals from reacting with sanitizers, which stops deep metal staining on spa surfaces and eliminates ugly water discoloration right at refill.

SpaGuard Enhanced Shock

- **What it does:** Rapidly oxidizes organic contaminants and quickly boosts free bromine or chlorine levels.
- **Why it's important:** Clears up cloudy water, destroys irritating chloramines/bromamines that cause harsh odors, and re-establishes safe sanitizer levels before or after heavy spa usage.

SpaGuard Stain and Scale Control

- **What it does:** Inhibits calcium and mineral buildup when added weekly (2 oz dose).
- **Why it's important:** Protects spa heaters, pumps, and plumbing lines from rough scale deposits and extends equipment lifespan.

SpaGuard pH Decreaser

- **What it does:** Lowers total alkalinity and pH levels when water becomes overly alkaline.
- **Why it's important:** Prevents cloudy water, scale deposits, and reduced sanitizer effectiveness caused by high pH levels. Keep Ph between 7.4 and 7.6.

SpaGuard pH Increaser

- **What it does:** Raises water pH when tests show acidic conditions.
- **Why it's important:** Prevents low pH from corroding metal components, eroding seals, and causing skin or eye discomfort for bathers. Keep Ph between 7.4 and 7.6.
- Test Water 4 days in a row after filling, once a week after that. Add SpaGuard Enhanced Shock and SpaGuard pH Increaser and SpaGuard pH Decreaser as needed
- Change your filter(s) every 6-8 months.

Your Ultimate Guide to Hot Tub Ownership: Tips & Tricks

Welcome to the world of hot tub relaxation! To ensure your experience is always top-notch, here are some helpful tips and tricks for maintaining your spa. By following these simple tips, you can ensure your hot tub remains a clean, safe, and enjoyable place to relax for years to come!

1. Why are my jets pulsating? This is a common issue that is usually easy to fix. The most likely causes are:

- **Low Water Level:** The water in your spa should be high enough to fully cover the jets and skimmer. If it's too low, the pump may be sucking in air, causing the jets to pulsate.
- **Dirty or Old Filters:** Clogged filters restrict water flow, which can also lead to pulsating jets. Make sure to keep your filters clean and replace them when they're no longer effective.

2. Why is my hot tub not heating? If your spa isn't getting warm, consider these possibilities:

- **Low Water Level:** Just like with the jets, a low water level can prevent the heater from functioning correctly.
- **Dirty or Old Filters:** A clogged filter can put a strain on the heater and prevent it from working efficiently.
- **Spa is in "Rest Mode":** Many spas have different operating modes. In "Rest Mode," the tub only heats during its pre-programmed filtration cycles. To ensure your hot tub heats continuously, switch it to "Ready Mode."

3. What is "Rest Mode" vs. "Ready Mode"?

- **Rest Mode:** The spa only heats during the filtration cycles, which typically run for a set number of hours per day. This is an energy-saving feature.
- **Ready Mode:** The hot tub will maintain its set temperature 24/7. This is the ideal mode for consistent heating and for when you want your spa ready to use at any time.

4. How often should I change my filters? We recommend changing your hot tub filters every **6-8 months**. However, this can vary based on your usage.

- **High Usage:** If you use your hot tub frequently (multiple times a week), you may need to replace your filters sooner.
- **Low Usage:** If you use your hot tub only occasionally, your filters may last a bit longer.
- **General Tip:** Always keep an eye on your filter's condition. If it looks worn, discolored, or is no longer cleaning the water effectively, it's time for a new one.

5. How long should my hot tub cover last? A typical hot tub cover has a lifespan of **3-5 years**. The longevity of your cover is heavily dependent on one key factor:

- **Water Chemistry:** Maintaining proper water chemistry is crucial. If your water is not balanced, the chemicals can off-gas and cause corrosion and damage to the underside of the cover, significantly shortening its life.

6. Why am I getting black mold underneath my cover? This is a common issue caused by a lack of proper ventilation.

- **The Problem:** Keeping the cover closed all the time traps moisture and heat, creating a perfect breeding ground for mold and mildew.

- **The Solution:** When your hot tub is not in use, it's a great habit to open the cover for **15-20 minutes**. This allows the hot, moist air to escape and lets the cover "breathe," preventing mold growth and extending the life of your cover.

Hot Tub Water Testing: Your Key to a Safe and Enjoyable Soak

Ensuring your hot tub water is safe and balanced is the most important part of hot tub ownership. Here's everything you need to know about why and how to test your water.

Do I need to test my spa every week?

The short answer is **yes, absolutely**. In fact, depending on how often you use your hot tub, it's often recommended to test the water even more frequently—two to three times per week, especially if you have high usage. While weekly testing is the minimum, the more you can test, the better. Regular testing is the only way to know for sure that your water is safe and that your chemicals are working effectively.

How do I know if my hot tub is safe to get in?

You test it!

You should never assume that your water is "good to go" just because it looks clear and smells fine. Unbalanced water can look and smell perfectly normal while still being a breeding ground for bacteria or being corrosive to your hot tub's components. Always test the water before getting in.

Why is testing so important?

- **Your Safety:** Testing ensures that the sanitizer levels (like chlorine or bromine) are high enough to kill bacteria and other contaminants, keeping you and your family safe from waterborne illnesses.
- **Preventing Damage:** Water that is too acidic or too alkaline can damage your hot tub's equipment, including the heater, jets, and surfaces. Keeping your water balanced will extend the life of your spa.
- **Comfort:** Correctly balanced water prevents skin and eye irritation, ensuring a comfortable and relaxing soak every time.
- **Saving Money:** Regularly testing and making small adjustments is much cheaper than dealing with a major water problem (like an algae bloom) or having to replace expensive equipment due to corrosion.

Tips for Effective Testing

- **Test Strips are Your Friend:** Test strips are the most common and easiest way to check your water. They typically measure key levels like pH, alkalinity, and your sanitizer (chlorine or bromine).
- **Get a Good Sample:** For the most accurate reading, dip the test strip at elbow depth in the center of the tub, away from the jets. This ensures you're getting a true sample of the water, not just the surface water or water from a specific jet.
- **Follow the Instructions:** Read the instructions on your test strip bottle carefully. Each brand is a little different regarding how long to dip the strip and how long to wait before reading the results.
- **Read in Natural Light:** For the most accurate color matching, read your test strip in natural daylight.
- **Professional Testing:** Consider taking a water sample to your local hot tub dealer once a month for a more comprehensive professional test. They have advanced equipment that can provide a detailed analysis and help you troubleshoot any ongoing issues.

By making weekly (or more frequent!) testing a part of your routine, you are taking the most important step to ensure your hot tub is a clean, healthy, and safe oasis of relaxation for years to come.