

FreshWater IQ™ Salt System

Water Start-Up Guide

Follow these steps in the recommended order to help ensure proper water balance and optimal system performance from day one.

Important: Before adding chemicals, make sure your water is at least **95°F** and the jets are running.

1: Fill the Spa Through the Filter Compartment

- Remove the filter(s) with the gray cap before filling, or remove the filter covering the standpipe.
- Run your hose with the pre-filter attached for 1 minute before filling.
- Fill the spa through the filter compartment at half pressure.
- Place the filter(s) back in the spa once full.

2: Electrical Hookup

- Have your electrician connect the spa.
- Test the jets and lights.
- Set the temperature to at least **95°F**.

3: Test Your Fill Water

- Use a **5-way test strip** to get a baseline of your water chemistry (pH, alkalinity, calcium hardness, sanitizer, and total hardness.)

4: Add Stain & Scale Control

- Add **2 to 3 tablespoons** to help prevent buildup.

5: Adjust Hardness, If Needed

- If hardness is high, place the **Vanishing Act Pillow** over the circulation vent for **12 to 24 hours**, depending on your test results.

6: Check for Phosphates

- Using the **phosphate test strips or kit**, check your phosphate level.
- If phosphates exceed **100 to 150 ppm**, add phosphate remover and let the jets run for **10 to 20 minutes**.
- Leave the cover closed and allow **24 hours** to fully balance.
- Follow up with **Water Clarifier** to get rid of any cloudiness in the water.

7: Adjust Alkalinity

- Lower alkalinity first by dosing with **pH Decreaser**.
- If alkalinity is above **200+**, use **Acid Magic** or **Muriatic Acid**, available at Tractor Supply or Lowe's.

8: Adjust pH

- Bring pH into the proper range: **7.2 to 7.8**.

9: Add Salt

- Start with **half the recommended amount**.
- Add **1 cup at a time** until the salt level reaches **1750 ppm**.
- Use **FreshWater Salt Test Strips** to verify the salt level.

10: Install New Salt Cartridge / Remove Dummy Plug

- If this is a new spa, turn off the spa at the breakers.
- Replace the **dummy salt plug** with a new **salt cell**.
- Turn the spa back on.
- Keep your dummy plug for later use.

11: Add Shock Oxidizer

- Add **3/4 cap** to activate and clean the system.

12: Add Chlorine

- Bring chlorine to **3 to 5 ppm**, then press the **Boost** button.
- Set the salt system to **Level 2 to 3**, then press the **Boost** button.

13: Final Check

- Wait **24 hours**.
- Test again to confirm chlorine is being generated.
- Once balanced, you are ready for **Happy Hot Tubbing!**

Need Help?

Please let us know if you have any questions during this process. We are more than happy to help. Call the store or email your sales representative if you have any questions.

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