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## Fact Sheet: Spa Pool Treatment

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Spa pools are more difficult to maintain, and are a higher health risk than swimming pools for the following reasons:

- The turbulence tends to remove a large quantity of dirt, skin and debris from peoples bodies.
- People will produce more sweat and release more body fluids as a result of the warm temperature.
- The warm, turbulent aerated water is an ideal breeding ground for many undesirable germs.
- Spa pools generally have a smaller water volume per bather than swimming pools, therefore any bugs or rubbish in the water will be more concentrated.
- As peoples bodies are stripped of natural oils by the war water their skin is less protected and therefore more susceptible to infection.

### Hygiene

Encourage the European tradition of washing thoroughly before entering the spa pool. This can be done by instructing the bathers to do this, or by displaying signs in the change rooms. Explain why it is so important. It is important that people working in and around the pool also maintain a high standard of health and hygiene.

Keep the walls of the spa and the surrounding area clean, and discourage people who are unwell from using the spa.

### Temperature

Ensure that the water temperature does not exceed 40°C

### Filtration

You spa pool should have its own separate filter and cleaning system. The pump must be capable of circulating the full volume of the spa through the filter at least once every thirty minutes.

Filter the water for at least 2 hours every day, even if the spa has not been used and always run the filter for at least one hour after people have stopped using it.

Frequent backwashing or flushing of the filter is essential, as the debris will accumulate very quickly.

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### Chemicals

The amount of chemical required depends on the number of people using it and whether it is located indoors or outdoors. As a guide, indoor spas need to have twice as much free chemical as outdoor swimming pools.

Ensure that the water is balanced, ie. the pH, total alkalinity and calcium hardness are in the correct levels. In doing this, the pH will fluctuate less and the chemicals will work more effectively.

Continuous dosing with chlorine, bromine or ozone is necessary, as is frequent water quality testing.

When using an ozone system, you must use chlorine or bromine with it.

### Dumping of Water

Provide the spa with a skimming system that will continuously take water from the surface, where most of the rubbish accumulates.

At the end of each day, depending on how many people used the pool, remove a quarter to a half of the water volume, and top it up with fresh water.

Public Spa pools should also be drained at least once a week and cleaned thoroughly, before refilling with fresh water.

### Further Information

If you require further information on anything contained in this Fact Sheet please contact Council's Building Section on 1300 292 442.