



TIPS FOR FILLING AND REFILLING YOUR SPA IN COLD WEATHER



DISCLAIMER: Spa start up on extremely cold days can be difficult to perform. If you must fill your spa on a freezing day, you should follow the steps below. Damage caused by ice is NOT covered under warranty. The homeowner is responsible for preventing freeze damage. Refer to instructions found in your operation manual.

1. It is recommended that customers fill their spa on a day where temperatures are above freezing.
2. If you must fill your spa during freezing temperatures, start the process in the morning, not late in the day. This way if you run into trouble, we are more likely to be available to assist. A spa left without power may experience damage caused by freezing because of residual factory test water in plumbing lines.
3. Remove the cabinet panel to the equipment compartment and place small space heater(s) on the ground in front of the equipment area blowing hot air toward the pumps and control box. **WARNING: BE CAREFUL NOT TO INCUR INJURY OR DAMAGE YOUR SPA WHEN HANDLING AUXILLARY HEAT SOURCES. DO NOT OVERHEAT ANY PLUMBING LINES OR OTHER EQUIPMENT.** This may cause warping, glue joint failures and/or leaks if not done properly.
4. Lean the cabinet panel against the spa over the top of the space heater(s). Place a heavy blanket or tarp over this part of the spa to keep as much heat as possible in the equipment area.
5. Remove the filter(s) and pour 10-20 gallons of 100-110°F water directly down the filter hole. This will direct hot water toward the pump(s) to help thaw any frozen test water.
6. Flush your garden hose for 30 seconds, then place it in the filter hole and begin filling your spa.
7. Once the spa is half full, place a submersible pump (1/4 HP or larger) into the bottom of the footwell. We have these pumps in stock if you need one, or you may find one at home improvement stores.
8. Do not connect a hose to the sump pump. **Simply place the sump pump in the bottom of your spa and let it circulate water** inside the spa. The heat generated from the pump and the circulating water should help prevent freezing. Keep the cover closed during this time to retain as much heat as possible.
9. Once the spa is filled with water, turn power on at the breaker. Spa will enter start up protocol which may last 5 minutes. Verify that all jets are open and flowing water and heater indicator light is lit.
10. If you cannot generate heat inside your spa, you may need to **drain and winterize** to prevent ice damage. **Call (303) HOT-TUBS for assistance.**

OTHER TIPS FOR OWNING A SPA IN COLD CLIMATES

1. In areas where heavy snow is anticipated, place 2 large sheets of plywood on top of the spa cover to help support the added weight of snow. Sweep snow off cover after 6" of accumulation forms.
2. Use Heavy duty wind straps to keep cover from blowing off. Call (303) HOT-TUBS for options/pricing.
3. If your spa has air intake valves, close them when the spa isn't in use. This will prevent cold outside air from lowering your water temp, thereby reducing heater demand.
4. To increase efficiency in the wintertime, a 1" insulation board or blanket can be secured to the inside of the spa equipment compartment door. This will block the cabinet vents and help retain heat. **IMPORTANT:** 1. Do not let insulation obstruct motor ventilation. 2. When outside temperatures reach 60°F, the equipment compartment insulation must be removed to prevent overheating of the equipment.
5. If possible, schedule your drain & refills in the fall & spring. If you need to drain & refill your spa as part of your regular water care, then you should wait for a day when temperatures are above 32°F.
6. It is recommended to leave hot tubs filled and running 365 days/year. If you will not be using the spa for 1 month or more, you can conserve energy by lowering your temperature setting to around 60°F.
7. Properly winterizing a spa is complicated and requires quite a bit of time to perform. If a spa is not properly winterized, it will likely incur freeze damage. If you still wish to winterize your spa, please call us at (303) HOT-TUBS for a detailed set of instructions.