

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL HOT TUBS & SPAS USAGE

The intent of this guideline is to provide guidance to owners, operators, and patrons on the safe installation, operation, use, and maintenance of private hot tubs and spas installed within individual residential cabins, condominiums, and apartments.

Private hot tubs and spas installed within individual residential cabins, condominiums, and apartments, housing no more than 3 (three) families, which are used exclusively by the primary residents, patrons, and their guests meet 64 CSR 16, Recreational Water Facilities' section 2.9, definition of a Private Residential Swimming Pool and are not subject to the requirements of this regulation. These guidelines are not applicable to any other hot tubs, spas, and pools meeting 64 CSR 16, Recreational Water Facilities' section 2.10.a, definition of a Recreational Water Facility.

It is recommended that the owners and operators of a hot tub or spa at all times abide by the following:

- Always follow the manufacturer's recommendations for installation, operation, and use.
- Always install the hot tub/spa according to the 1999 ANSI/NSPI – 3 for Permanent Installed Residential Spas, or 1999 ANSI/NSPI – 6 for Portable Spas.
- Always install hot tubs, spas, and associated equipment according to the most current WV State Fire Code and WV State Building Code. Special attention must be paid to compliance with Article 680 – Swimming Pools and Similar Installations, of the National Electric Code.
- Drains should not be directly connected to a sewer or waste line unless protected by an approved sewage backflow prevention device.
- The hot tub or spa needs to be filled by owner and initial chemicals added prior to use by each new resident or patron and their guests.
- The hot tub or spa should be emptied and cleaned after each change in resident or patron, before a new resident or patron checks in to the individual cabin, condominium, or apartment.
- Filling should be done in such a manner to prevent the back-siphonage of the hot tub's or spa's water into the drinking water system (i.e., do not submerge the fill hose in the spa water).
- The disinfectant levels and chemical values must be maintained at all times as follows:

Disinfectant/Chemical Value	Minimum	Max	Ideal Range
Free Chlorine (<i>if used</i>)	2 ppm	10 ppm	3-5 ppm
Bromine (<i>if used</i>)	2 ppm	10 ppm	4-6 ppm
pH	7.2	7.8	7.4 – 7.6

If other EPA approved disinfecting materials are used, disinfectant levels must be maintained and monitored according to manufacturer's recommendations.

If proper disinfection is not performed and maintained, skin infections such as *Pseudomonas* dermatitis/folliculitis may occur.

- DPD test kits should be used by owners and operators for frequently monitoring free chlorine or bromine and pH. Free chlorine or bromine and pH test strips should be provided to each residential patron upon arrival.
- Test kits /strips for other EPA approved disinfectants should be used by owners and operators for frequent monitoring as per manufacturer’s recommendations. Test strips should be provided to each residential patron upon arrival.
- All owner and operator test records should be kept for one (1) year.
- A thermometer designed for spa usage should be installed to ensure bather comfort and safety.

Operational Guidelines should be posted near the hot tub/ spa for patron use and safety. Guideline items should include the following items and any others that are applicable to each residential installation.

- The following disinfectant levels and chemical values must be maintained at all times:

Disinfectant/Chemical Value	Minimum	Max	Ideal Range
Free Chlorine <i>(if used)</i>	2 ppm	10 ppm	3-5 ppm
Bromine <i>(if used)</i>	2 ppm	10 ppm	4-6 ppm
pH	7.2	7.8	7.4 – 7.6

Other EPA approved disinfectant levels must meet manufacturer’s recommendations

- Before entering the hot tub/spa patrons should use the test strips provided in order to determine disinfectant and pH values.
- If these values are not adequate please contact the operator of the facility (*contact information*).
- Please wait 30 minutes before re-entering the hot tub/spa after chemical additions are made.
- Do not enter the hot tub/spa if the water temperature exceeds 104° F.
- Children with access to the hot tub/spa must be supervised by an adult at all times.
- Individuals under the influence of drugs or alcohol should not enter the hot tub/spa.
- Pregnant women should refrain from hot tub/spa use.
- Do not place electric appliances within five (5) feet of hot tub/spa.
- Do not use hot tub/spa when an electrical storm is present.
- Do not use hot tub/spa if any suction or drain covers are not secure and in place.
- In case of an emergency call 911. (*Or other emergency number appropriate for your area.*)