

CLOUDY HOT TUB WATER TROUBLESHOOTING FLOWCHART

RESTORE CLEAR, SPARKLING WATER IN YOUR SPA

Cloudy water is usually caused by poor filtration, unbalanced chemistry, contaminants, or aging water. Follow this guide to find the cause and fix it fast.

CLEAR WATER GOAL

Crystal-clear, healthy water you can enjoy!



1

DIAGNOSE THE CAUSE

A. FILTRATION PROBLEMS



- ✓ Dirty or clogged filter cartridges
- ✓ Filters are more than 12–24 months old
- ✓ Insufficient filtration or circulation time
- ✓ Excess oils or debris overwhelming the filter

B. WATER CHEMISTRY ISSUES



- ✓ Low sanitizer level
- ✓ High pH
- ✓ High total alkalinity
- ✓ Calcium hardness out of balance, causing scale or precipitation

C. CONTAMINANTS



- ✓ Body oils, lotions, or cosmetics
- ✓ Swimsuits washed with detergent
- ✓ Heavy bather load
- ✓ Pollen, leaves, insects, or other debris

D. WATER QUALITY PROBLEMS



- ✓ Water is older than its recommended drain interval (typically 3–4 months)
- ✓ Biofilm buildup inside the plumbing
- ✓ High Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)
- ✓ Water remained cloudy after shocking

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FOLLOW THESE STEPS



CLEAN OR REPLACE THE FILTERS

- ✓ Rinse filters thoroughly.
- ✓ Deep-clean with a filter cleaner per manufacturer.
- ✓ Replace if damaged, heavily stained, or more than 1–2 years old.

Dirty filters are one of the most common causes of cloudy water.

2

TEST AND BALANCE THE WATER

VERIFY THAT:

- ✓ Sanitizer is in range
- ✓ pH is 7.2–7.6 (up to 7.8)
- ✓ Total alkalinity is 80–120 ppm
- ✓ Calcium hardness is 150–250 ppm (typical)

Balanced water allows sanitizers and filters to work efficiently.

3

SHOCK THE WATER

CHLORINE SPAS:

Use a chlorine shock per label. If still cloudy after 24 hours, follow with non-chlorine shock or natural enzymes.

BROMINE SPAS:

Use non-chlorine shock (MPS) or chlorine shock if recommended. Natural enzymes are also a good option.

- ✓ Leave cover open and run jets for 20–30 minutes.
- Shocking oxidizes organic contaminants but won't correct filtration or balance problems.

4

IMPROVE CIRCULATION

- ✓ Increase filtration time for the next 24 hours.
- ✓ Verify pumps and jets are operating properly.
- ✓ Ensure all valves are fully open and water is circulating freely.

Poor circulation keeps fine particles suspended instead of filtering them.

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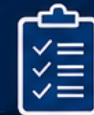
USE A WATER CLARIFIER (IF NEEDED)

- ✓ Only use after cleaning filters and balancing the water.
- ✓ Follow the manufacturer's dosage instructions.

Clarifiers bind tiny particles so the filter can remove them better.

6

RECHECK THE WATER AFTER 12–24 HOURS



CONFIRM THAT:

- ✓ Water is clear
- ✓ Sanitizer is in range
- ✓ pH is stable
- ✓ No unusual odors

IF STILL CLOUDY, CHECK:

- ✓ High TDS
- ✓ Biofilm in plumbing
- ✓ Worn or ineffective filters
- ✓ Water too old or heavily contaminated

3

WHEN TO DRAIN AND REFILL

Drain and refill your hot tub if any of these apply:

- ✓ Water is near or past its drain interval (every 3–4 months)
- ✓ Filters clog repeatedly
- ✓ Cloudiness returns shortly after treatment
- ✓ Water feels dull, heavy, or has a musty odor
- ✓ Sanitizer won't stay in range

Old or contaminated water may not recover with chemicals alone.

4

PREVENT CLOUDY WATER

- ✓ Rinse filters weekly
- ✓ Deep-clean filters every month
- ✓ Replace filters every 12–24 months or as needed
- ✓ Shower before entering the spa
- ✓ Avoid washing swimsuits with detergent
- ✓ Maintain proper sanitizer level or use an automatic system
- ✓ Keep pH and total alkalinity in recommended ranges
- ✓ Shock the water after heavy use
- ✓ Purge the plumbing with a biofilm remover before every drain and refill



CLEAR WATER STARTS WITH CONSISTENT MAINTENANCE

Cloudy water is usually a symptom—not the problem itself. Consistent maintenance prevents most cloudy water issues and keeps your hot tub clean, healthy, and ready to enjoy every time.

NOTE: Always follow product instructions and test your water regularly.

When in doubt, consult a hot tub professional.