

SIGNS OF HIGH TDS IN A HOT TUB: TROUBLESHOOTING FLOWCHART

USE THIS GUIDE WHEN:

Your hot tub water becomes hard to balance, cloudy, foamy, or when sanitizer won't hold.

WHAT IS TDS?

TDS (Total Dissolved Solids) is the buildup of dissolved material in the water, including bather waste, chemicals, minerals, and organic contaminants. As TDS rises, water becomes harder to balance and more prone to problems.

WATER SHOULD BE:

- ☒ Clear
- ☒ Odor-Free
- ☒ Properly Balanced



1 WATER CHEMISTRY BEHAVIOR



High TDS often shows up as:

- ☒ Sanitizer will not hold and drops quickly
- ☒ pH and alkalinity swing repeatedly after adjustment
- ☒ Shock treatment gives only temporary improvement
- ☒ Test results seem inconsistent or unreliable

2 WATER APPEARANCE



Signs you may see:

- ☒ Water looks cloudy or dull and won't fully clear
- ☒ Foam returns quickly after defoaming or filter cleaning
- ☒ The shell feels slick or leaves residue
- ☒ Water may have a green, gray, or brown tint

3 ODOR & FEEL



High TDS can make water feel unpleasant:

- ☒ Musty or stale odor
- ☒ Skin feels dry or irritated
- ☒ Water feels heavy, sticky, or hard to rinse off

4 PERFORMANCE CLUES



High TDS affects how the spa runs:

- ☒ Filters clog faster than normal
- ☒ Sanitizer demand continues increasing
- ☒ Water requires more frequent maintenance
- ☒ Water quality declines despite proper adjustments

5 HOW TO CONFIRM HIGH TDS



Use a handheld TDS meter for a quick reading.

GENERAL GUIDELINE

There is no universal "maximum" TDS level. Consider a drain & refill if:

- TDS has increased ~1,000–1,500 ppm above your fill water reading, OR
- Water is 3–4 months old and difficult to balance.

The trend over time is most important.

6 WHAT THE READING MEANS



If TDS keeps rising and the water is older or heavily used, it's a strong sign the water is saturated.

When TDS is high:
A drain and refill is often the best fix.

7 HOW TO FIX HIGH TDS

STEP 1 PURGE THE PLUMBING



- Add a spa purge product.
- Run all pumps and jets per product instructions.
- This removes biofilm and built-up residue in the plumbing.



STEP 2 DRAIN & REFILL



- Completely drain the spa.
- Clean the shell, cover, and filter compartment.
- Refill with fresh water.



STEP 3 BALANCE CHEMISTRY AFTER REFILLING



pH	7.2 – 7.8
Total Alkalinity	80 – 120 ppm
Calcium Hardness	150 – 250 ppm
Sanitizer	In proper range



Fresh water + proper balance restores clarity and stability.

BEST PRACTICES TO PREVENT HIGH TDS



Shower before soaking.



Rinse swimsuits with plain water (no detergent).



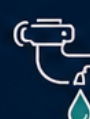
Shock after heavy use.



Clean filters regularly.



Drain and refill every 3–4 months (or per water replacement interval).



Purge plumbing before every drain and refill.



REMEMBER

Fresh, clean water is easier to balance, keeps your spa running better, and extends equipment life.



NOTE: Always follow product instructions and test your water regularly. | Good maintenance • Consistent testing • Balanced chemistry = Clear, clean, enjoyable water!