

# Spa care.

Tips & suggestions.



RRP \$4.95





BioGuard® is a trademark of Chemtura Australia Pty Ltd.  
All product names are trademarks or registered trademarks  
of their respective holders. © Copyright Chemtura Australia  
Pty Ltd August 2009. All rights reserved. Reproduction,  
adaptation or translation without permission is prohibited,  
except as allowed under the copyright laws.

Printed in Australia  
[www.bioguard.com](http://www.bioguard.com)

<b>Contents.</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>Looking after your spa.....</b>	<b>03</b>
<b>Products to suit you.....</b>	<b>04</b>
<b>Starting or refilling your spa.....</b>	<b>08</b>
<b>Water testing.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Spa maintenance.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Water balancing programs.....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>FAQ's.....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Handling chemicals.....</b>	<b>20</b>



## Looking after your spa.

**Nothing feels quite as good as easing yourself into a nice warm spa and letting the bubbles work their magic. Spas reduce stress levels, soothe sore muscles and improve circulation.**

Over the following pages, we'll tell you how BioGuard® SPA products can help keep your spa in top condition, so it can do the same for you.

We'll use the term 'spa' to refer to spas, swim spas and hot tubs.

### The benefits of BioGuard® SPA.

Spa maintenance is important and easy. BioGuard® SPA products will give you:

- Sparkling clear water that feels comfortable
- Enjoyment of your spa all year round
- Protection from bacteria
- Prevention of spa surface staining
- Prevention of scale.

Spas are all different, so make sure you consult your manual for equipment operation and maintenance procedures, and visit a BioGuard® Approved Retailer for expert advice. Always read product labels for detailed information on application and use.

### BioGuard® Approved Retailers.

Ask your BioGuard® Approved Retailer any questions you have about caring for your spa. They offer expert advice and use state of the art technology to recommend a personalised spa maintenance plan to suit you.

For more information visit [www.bioguard.com](http://www.bioguard.com)

### Spa care experts.

All BioGuard® SPA products have been developed after extensive research and testing. They're designed to work best in combination with other BioGuard® SPA products and have the backing of over 40 years of expert pool and spa care.

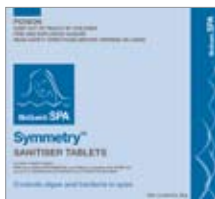
BioGuard® Approved Retailers have received extensive training and ongoing technical support, so you'll get the best source of reliable information, quality products and customer service.

## Products to suit you.

BioGuard® SPA offers a full line of sanitisers, oxidisers, balancers and accessories. If your spa uses pre-installed devices, such as ozonators, ionisers, or salt chlorinators, the BioGuard® SPA range can still keep your spa at its very best.

### Sanitisers.

Kill bacteria and keep you protected. Our BioGuard® SPA products include: Symmetry™, Armour™ and Chlorinated Concentrate™.



### Oxidisers.

Remove undesirable compounds and ensure the water is sparkling clear. BioGuard® SPA products include: Purity™, Armour™ and Chlorinated Concentrate™.



### Balancers.

Protect spa surfaces and equipment, and increase water comfort. BioGuard® SPA products include: Performance Up™, Comfort Up™, Shield™, Aquality™ and Perfect Balance™\*.



### Specialty.

These products will give you perfect water, super clean surfaces and protect your equipment. BioGuard® SPA products include: Renew™, Crystal Clear™, Velvet™, Foam Go™ and Defence™.

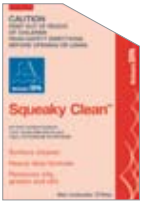


\* Never use in spas with concrete, tile or plaster finishes.

## Popular products.

### BioGuard® SPA Squeaky Clean™

A fast-acting product that breaks down oils and debris. You'll be able to wipe them away more easily and unlike most household cleaners, Squeaky Clean is compatible with your spa's chemistry.



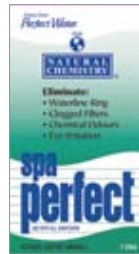
### Swirl Away Pipe Cleaner™

This product will clean your spa's plumbing system by removing deposits of oil, grease and grime from pipelines and jets in your spa. Its unique formulation softens and clears deposits, allowing your system to operate at peak efficiency.



### Natural Chemistry Spa Perfect™

A natural product that prevents waterline build-up. It contains enzymes that digest and eliminate most oils from the water. Your spa will be less likely to form foam, the surface will be clean, the waterline will stay cleaner for longer periods, and the life of the filter will be extended.



**Spa Fact: 38 minutes in a spa produces more sweat than 3 hours outside in 40° Celsius.**





## Starting or refilling your spa.

Ideally, when a spa is filled for the very first time a shock dose of a BioGuard® SPA oxidiser should be added, with the spa circulation and aeration turned on. You should allow the system to operate for a couple of hours, before draining the spa and rinsing the interior surfaces. If this is not possible, based on local water usage guidelines, follow the steps below.

Always read and follow label directions on each package. Apply correctly measured dosages following the application directions on the label.

### Start up.

The following suggestions are suitable for the Perfect Balance Method and the Mineral Balance Method [see page 14].

1. As the spa is filling with water, add BioGuard® SPA Defence to prevent stains caused by metals in the water, whilst protecting spa equipment.
2. Once the spa is filled, start equipment following manufacturer's directions. Apply BioGuard® SPA Crystal Clear and allow the water to circulate for about five minutes.
3. If using either the Perfect Balance Method or Mineral Balance Method, follow the recommendations on your computerised water analysis from your BioGuard® Approved Retailer. These recommendations are personalised for your water and spa. Use either BioGuard® SPA Perfect Balance, or the correct Mineral Balancing chemicals [see page 17]. Be sure to wait the indicated time between the addition of balancing products.
4. Allow the water to circulate for approximately 30 minutes, then add BioGuard® SPA Purity to initially oxidise the water. BioGuard® SPA Armour or Chlorinated Concentrate can also be used to oxidise the water.
5. Add the initial dose of your preferred Spa Care Sanitiser as detailed in start up directions on label.
6. Once you have established a bromine residual of 4 - 6 ppm, or chlorine residual of 2 - 3 ppm, apply Natural Chemistry Spa Perfect.



## Water testing.

It may come as a surprise, but the water you drink may not be the safest for your spa. Test your spa water regularly, especially when filling up.

The two primary components affecting spa water are the sanitiser and pH levels. When both elements are within their recommended ranges your water will be comfortable, protected and clear. In addition, getting these components right enables sanitisers and oxidisers to work efficiently and your spa surfaces and equipment will remain protected.

### Testing at home:

Use a BioGuard® 4-way Test Strip Kit. Check your bromine residual is within the recommended levels of 4 – 6 ppm. Chlorine residual must be within 2 – 3 ppm. Even if your spa is equipped with an ozone generator, you're still required to maintain the chlorine or bromine at the lower end of their ranges.

### Professional testing:

To complement your home testing routine, take a water sample to your BioGuard® Approved Retailer regularly (every 4 – 6 weeks) for a complete water analysis. In addition to checking sanitiser and pH levels, this analysis will measure the water's total alkalinity, calcium hardness, iron, copper, manganese and total dissolved solids.

Based on this analysis, your BioGuard® Approved Retailer will recommend the right products for your spa.



## Spa maintenance.

### Circulation.

Correct circulation will help prevent bacteria and other contaminants from becoming a problem. As the water circulates it passes through the filter, trapping suspended particles.

Circulation also helps to evenly distribute BioGuard® SPA products.

#### Improve circulation by:

- Running your spa's circulation system every day
- Checking your spa manual to see how long your circulation system should run for, or asking your BioGuard® Approved Retailer for advice
- Making sure circulation pumps are always in good working order.

### Filtration.

Many spa problems are caused by poor filtration. A filter operating correctly helps keep the water clean by capturing the hair, oils, and cosmetics washed off by people using the spa.

When the filter is dirty or clogged, all this debris remains in the water. Ideally you should clean the filter every 4 to 6 weeks.

#### Improve filtration by:

- Checking your filter manual to find out how to remove the filter cartridge
- Rinsing the filter cartridge to remove loose debris using a garden hose or suitable alternative depending on water restrictions
- Using BioGuard® SPA Renew every time you clean your filter. This will dissolve and loosen the built-up oil, dirt and scale deposits
- Thoroughly rinsing the cartridge again and leaving to dry
- Returning the clean cartridge to the filter housing.

It is also a good idea to check the manual, or ask your BioGuard® Approved Retailer how often the filter should be replaced. To improve filter efficiency, use BioGuard® SPA Crystal Clear once a week. It joins tiny particles of debris together, allowing the filter to remove them and keep the water clean.

## Spa surfaces.

If left unchecked, contaminants such as dirt, oil, and even bacteria can accumulate at the waterline – much like a bathtub ring. It is therefore important to clean the spa surfaces regularly to preserve the surface and keep the spa looking and feeling its best.

### How to clean spa surfaces:

- Use a skimmer net to remove floating debris
- Regularly brush and vacuum the spa
- If you have a skimmer basket, empty it once or twice a week
- Clean the oil ring that forms at the waterline using BioGuard® SPA Squeaky Clean.

## Spa water.

Regular emptying and refilling is a normal part of spa maintenance. Over time, the water absorbs and dissolves minerals, chemicals and other soluble material.

Your BioGuard® Approved Retailer can perform a quick and easy test to help determine if it's time to replace your water. Generally, your spa should be emptied and refilled every 6 – 8 weeks (check your local water restrictions).

### How to replace spa water:

- Clean out the pipes with Swirl Away prior to emptying
- Empty the water. Check your manual for information about correct emptying procedures
- Clean the spa surfaces with BioGuard® SPA Squeaky Clean and wash down with water
- Refill the spa with fresh water.

Take a sample of the water used to refill the spa to your BioGuard® Approved Retailer for a complete analysis.

## Water balancing programs.



Maintaining correct pH is extremely important. It helps control bacteria, provides user comfort and prevents equipment deterioration. The acidity and alkalinity of the water is measured by pH. The correct level for spas is 7.4 – 7.6, which is a comfortable level for your skin. Heated, aerated water combined with heavy use can cause the pH to change quickly – unless a means for controlling these changes is present.

BioGuard® SPA has two great methods for controlling water balance – Perfect Balance Method and Mineral Balance Method. Consult your BioGuard® Approved Retailer to find out which system best suits your needs.



## The Perfect Balance Method.

Designed for acrylic, vinyl, and fibreglass spas, the Perfect Balance Method softens the water to increase comfort and protects the spa surface and equipment. It comes in an easy, single step, liquid dosage for maintaining a stable pH. The product is added when the spa is filled, as well as in small weekly maintenance doses.

### General care for the Perfect Balance Method.

#### Use BioGuard® 4-way Test Strips to test your spa water at home.

1. Test the bromine/chlorine residual every day or every other day, using BioGuard® 4-way Test Strips at home. Use a BioGuard® SPA Sanitiser, following label instructions, to maintain a bromine residual of 4 – 6 ppm or chlorine residual of 2 – 3 ppm.
2. Test the pH of the water weekly. If pH drops below 7.2 or rises above 7.6, take a sample of your water to your BioGuard® Approved Retailer for testing and recommendations. The ideal range is 7.4 – 7.6.
3. Apply Natural Chemistry Spa Perfect™ and BioGuard® SPA Defence once a week, following label instructions.
4. Shock your spa with BioGuard® SPA Purity at least once a week. Additional applications are recommended after heavy spa usage or the appearance of cloudy water. Read the label carefully. BioGuard® SPA Armour or Chlorinated Concentrate can also be used as your regular oxidiser.
5. Apply BioGuard® SPA Perfect Balance weekly to replenish & control pH.
6. Spas should be emptied and refilled approximately every 6 – 8 weeks depending on usage.

**Spa Fact: 4 people in a spa is equivalent to 176 people in a pool.**



## The Mineral Balance Method.

Designed for all types of spas, the Mineral Balance Method adjusts total alkalinity, pH, and calcium hardness. If any of these levels are out of balance, they can cause problems such as scaling, corrosion, cloudy water, ineffective sanitisation and spa surface staining. Consult your BioGuard® Approved Retailer for expert advice on the BioGuard® SPA products that will suit your needs.

### General care for the Mineral Balance Method.

1. Test the bromine/ chlorine residual every day or every other day. Apply your BioGuard® SPA Sanitiser as per label directions to maintain a bromine residual of 4 – 6 ppm or chlorine residual of 2 – 3 ppm.
2. Test the total alkalinity of the water once a week. If the total alkalinity is below 125 ppm, use BioGuard® SPA Performance Up to raise the alkalinity to the correct range of 125 ppm – 150 ppm. If the total alkalinity is above 150 ppm, use BioGuard® SPA Aquality to lower the total alkalinity to the correct range.
3. Test the pH of the water weekly. If the pH drops below 7.2 use BioGuard® SPA Comfort Up to raise the pH to the correct range of 7.2 – 7.6. If the pH rises above 7.6, use BioGuard® SPA Aquality to lower the pH to the correct level.
4. Apply Natural Chemistry Spa Perfect™ and BioGuard® SPA Defence each week as indicated on the labels.
5. Once a week – or more often if spa use is heavy – shock your spa using BioGuard® SPA Purity. Read the label carefully and follow the directions. (BioGuard® SPA Armour or Chlorinated Concentrate can also be used to shock your spa).
6. Each month, test the calcium hardness level of your spa. If the calcium hardness is below 100 ppm, add BioGuard® SPA Shield. If it exceeds 200 ppm, apply BioGuard® SPA Defence as indicated on the label directions.
7. Spas should be emptied and refilled approximately every 6 – 8 weeks depending on usage.

## FAQ's.

This section will help you identify and correct any typical problem you may have with your spa. However, when in doubt, take a sample of your spa water into your BioGuard® Approved Retailer for analysis and expert advice.

### Why is my water coloured?

Copper may erode or corrode the spa's heating system and dissolve into the water. As a result, it can make your water look green or greenish-blue. To prevent this from affecting the spa's surface and causing unsightly stains, use BioGuard® SPA Defence.

A metal remover, such as BioGuard® Quick Clear, can help remove most common metals from spa water. In some instances, your BioGuard® Approved Retailer may recommend you empty the spa and refill with fresh water. When doing so, be sure to follow correct start-up procedures and water testing.

### How can I avoid irritations?

When your spa is used, non-filterable wastes like perspiration, oils, hair sprays, cosmetics and body fats can accumulate. This makes the water dull, irritating and unattractive, as well as interfering with sanitising products.

To remove these wastes and restore sparkle to the water, use an oxidiser such as BioGuard® SPA Purity, Chlorinated Concentrate or Armour. Note: leave the spa cover off for at least 1 hour after adding the product and run the pump to circulate the water.

### What is scale?

Scale is a rough, sandpaper-like deposit, which coats the walls of your spa and clogs pipes, filters and heaters. To help prevent and reduce scale formation, and protect your equipment, ensure your spa's water is correctly balanced. Use BioGuard® SPA Defence weekly, and visit your BioGuard® Approved Retailer.

### Can I prevent foaming?

High aeration and agitation, combined with body oils, lotions and high temperatures, will sometimes create an undesirable foam level. BioGuard® SPA Foam Go stops the foaming almost immediately.

### Why is my water cloudy?

Cloudy water can be caused by heavy usage of the spa or hot tub, or initial bleeding of tannin from wood surfaces. BioGuard® SPA Crystal Clear turns cloudy water sparkling clear, and is ideal for regular use to improve water quality. For extra 'shock' treatment use an oxidiser such as BioGuard® SPA Purity, Chlorinated Concentrate or Armour.

## FAQ's.



### How can I remove stains?

Spa surface stains are usually caused by metals in the spa water. BioGuard® SPA Defence can lighten or remove fresh stains. To prevent stains before they occur, use BioGuard® SPA Defence weekly.

### Can I enhance the water?

For spa water that feels really comfortable, use BioGuard® SPA Velvet. Combined with a fresh rose fragrance, the unique technology of BioGuard® SPA Velvet enhances the feel of the water and reduces eye and skin irritations.

BioGuard® SPA Velvet also enhances water clarity and helps reduce chemical usage.

## Handling chemicals.

### Do's

- **Always** read the product label and follow directions carefully. They contain important information about proper application, handling and storage of the product you're using. Used correctly, spa water chemicals safeguard the health of your entire family. If they're mishandled, they can be hazardous, or dangerous.
- **Contact** your BioGuard® Approved Retailer for advice for the correct disposal of unused chemicals and containers.
- **Always** store chemical products safely with the containers tightly closed and out of reach of children. Ensure they are stored in a cool, dry, well ventilated place, away from other household, garden and petroleum products.
- **Take care** when putting product in the spa on windy days to prevent product blowing into your eyes, mouth, skin or onto clothes.
- **Clean up** any spills promptly. Small amounts can be hosed into the spa. Contact your BioGuard® Approved Retailer for advice on larger spills.

### Don'ts

- **Never** interchange measuring scoops between products.
- **Never** store liquids near other chemicals, petrol or metallic objects.
- **Never** mix chemicals of any kind together, and never smoke near the chemicals. An uncontrolled reaction such as fuming, fire or explosion could occur.
- **Never** add water directly to chemicals – always add the chemical to large amounts of water.
- **Never** inhale the fumes of the products.

In the event of accidental contact, or if the product is swallowed, follow the advice on the label, and call your doctor and/or the Poisons Information Centre (AU) 13 11 26, or (NZ) 0800 764 766.



9 322477 300287

Your local BioGuard® Approved Retailer:

AU **1300 313 414**  
NZ **0508 313 414**  
[www.bioguard.com](http://www.bioguard.com)

20020229 - 0809

