

Hot Tub Maintenance Checklist

Print · laminate · check off each task with a dry-erase marker

Daily — 5 minutes

- ☐ Check water temperature is at your set point (usually 100–104°F)
- ☐ Inspect the cover for tears, sagging, or a waterlogged (heavy) feel
- ☐ Skim surface debris — leaves, insects, floating particles
- ☐ Quick sanitizer test after use; top up if it's low

Weekly — 20–30 minutes

- ☐ Full water test — pH, alkalinity, sanitizer, hardness (5-way strip)
- ☐ Shock treatment (non-chlorine / MPS) after the last use, jets running
- ☐ Rinse the filter with a hose, top to bottom between the pleats
- ☐ Wipe the waterline / scum line with a spa-safe surface cleaner
- ☐ Balance chemistry — alkalinity first, then pH, then sanitizer

Monthly — about 1 hour

- ☐ Deep-clean the filter — overnight soak, rinse well, dry before reinstalling
- ☐ Run and check all jets; clear any that are clogged
- ☐ Test calcium hardness (target 150–250 ppm)
- ☐ Lubricate pump & filter O-rings with silicone (never petroleum) lube
- ☐ Inspect pump, heater, and control panel for leaks, noises, or error codes
- ☐ Clean the cover underside (diluted bleach, ~1 oz per gallon) to stop mildew

Quarterly — drain, clean, refill

- ☐ Line flush 2 days before draining — add pipe cleaner, run jets 30 min
- ☐ Drain the tub completely
- ☐ Scrub and rinse the shell thoroughly (no cleaner residue — it causes foam)
- ☐ Deep-clean the filters, or replace if they're 12–18 months old
- ☐ Refill and rebalance — alkalinity, then pH, then sanitizer
- ☐ Inspect the cover, jets, and equipment while the tub is empty

Water Chemistry & Warning Signs

Quick reference — keep it next to the tub

Target Ranges

Parameter	Target range	Ideal
pH	7.2–7.8	7.4–7.6
Total alkalinity	80–120 ppm	100 ppm
Free chlorine	1–3 ppm	2–3 ppm
Bromine	3–5 ppm	4 ppm
Calcium hardness	150–250 ppm	200 ppm
Cyanuric acid (CYA)	0–30 ppm	under 20 ppm

Quick Signs Something Is Wrong

- Cloudy or foamy water → usually a chemistry or filter issue
- Strong chemical smell → chloramines; shock the water
- Green or brown tint → metals or algae; test and treat right away
- Slippery surfaces inside the tub → biofilm; shock and line-flush
- Weak jets / low pressure → check the filter first, then the pump
- Error code on the panel → look up the code for your brand

Stop guessing your water chemistry

The free HTReminder app reads a photo of your test strip and tells you exactly what to add.

[Download free](#) · htremind.com