

# the WATER CHEM COMMUNIQUE

A newsletter for pool and spa owners

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Dear Friends,

The holiday season offers us a special opportunity to extend a personal thanks to our customers, and offer our very best wishes for the future.

It is our valued customers, like you, who make being in business such a pleasure all year long. We look forward to continuing our association with you and we will strive to exceed your expectations.

Our retail showrooms in Ames and Urbandale offer a large selection of Jacuzzi Hot Tubs, in-ground and above-ground swimming pools, saunas, parts, equipment, chemicals and accessories. Please stop by and see what we can do for you today.

The staff at WCI Pools and Spas would like to wish you a very happy holiday season and extend our wishes for good health and a happy new year.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

David, Chad, Kathy, Marshall, Kaye, Scott, Zach, and Craig



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## SLEEP BETTER AFTER AN EVENING SOAK IN YOUR JACUZZI HOT TUB

A survey conducted by the U.S. National Sleep Foundation suggests that lack of sound sleep is contributing to increased anger, stress, injury, obesity and other health and behavioral problems. The survey indicates that as many as one in five people are not getting either the quality, or amount of sleep they need. People in this army of the walking tired are more likely to sit and seethe in traffic jams, quarrel with other people, and overeat, according to the findings. The survey also found that more people than ever are taking medications to help them sleep.

There is a better way--the **Jacuzzi®** way. A 20-minute soak before you go to bed can be a wonderful way to get your body - and mind - ready for a deep, restful sleep. A Jacuzzi Hot Tub helps wash away the stress of the day, soothing your nerves and calming your emotions so you can recapture your sense of well-being and sleep the whole night.



### Gift Certificate

Give a splash of fun to a friend! A selection from our store is the perfect gift for any hot tub or swimming pool lover.

### HOLIDAY COUPON

Good for **10%** off purchases of pool or hot tub water care products or accessories  
Save 10% through Jan. 31, 2011  
Not valid with other offers



Hot Tubs



## ENHANCE YOUR HOLIDAY WITH AROMATHERAPY

What is Aromatherapy? Aromatherapy is a therapeutic use of essential aromas. The use of naturally formulated plant essences is an age-old practice. These essential aromas can help awaken, strengthen and enhance our innate energies and self-healing capabilities. A variety of fragrances are formulated for your hot water enjoyment, creating a rich soothing “Aromatherapy” experiences for your mind, body and soul.

### Spa Crystals Spa Fragrances

The new **Spa Crystals** fragrance line features a unique blend of plant extracts and essentials minerals that blend in perfect harmony to create a rich soothing “Aromatherapy” experience. Included in each elegantly constructed box of **Spa Crystals** you will find 2 pounds of fragrance crystals nestled inside a re-sealable package with a convenient deluxe scooper. **Spa Crystals** are available in a range of different scents sure to increase the quality of any hot tub soak.

WCI has a large variety of fragrances in stock. Stop in our stores and sniff out one or more for a great stocking stuffer. Let your senses choose the aroma that speaks to you!



## Snow Accumulation

A single cubic foot of freshly fallen dry snow weighs about 30 pounds! Doing the math, an 8' x 8' hot tub cover with just 3 inches of accumulation is supporting nearly 500 extra pounds-- even more with wet snow or ice.

Hot tub cover manufacturer's warranties do not cover snow, ice, or other weight-related damage. So if snow is in the forecast, you can help prevent breakage of the hot tub cover's foam core by carefully removing excess accumulation during winter months. Use a soft broom to avoid damage to the vinyl—do not use sharp tools like rakes or shovels.

## Baqua Spa

Looking for an alternative sanitizer for your spa or hot tub? The **Baqua Spa Water Care System** is bromine and chlorine free. It also controls bacteria longer than bromine or chlorine, so you use it less often. It doesn't affect pH levels either, so you'll do less testing and water balancing. Where chlorine levels vary widely daily and weekly, **Baqua Spa** offers consistent, long lasting protection. With just one application, bacteria levels are controlled for as long as 7-10 days.

Stop by our store and ask us how to convert your spa water to using the **Baqua Spa Water Care System**.



## Clean Your Filters Today

Manufacturers of cartridge filter elements recommend cleaning your filter at least monthly depending on frequency of use and number of bathers. Always turn the power off before removing the filters and keep power off until filters are re-installed in the spa.

If your filters are over 2 years old, replace them. Old, dirty filters do not help you or your spa. Clogged filters can cause the heater to shut off and put undo stress on the circulation pump. Some spa-side controls may display a message indicating a water flow problem due to a dirty filter. No heat as a result of clogged filters is the number one reason for calls to our Service Staff.

When cleaning the filter, use a garden hose with a straight flow nozzle to wash down the filter element. Work from the top down, holding the nozzle at a 45-degree angle, and wash all the pleats with emphasis between pleats. Rinse until all dirt and debris is gone.

If the filter contains excessive perspiration or body oils, soak the element for at least one hour (over night is most effective) in a commercial filter cleaner (**Filter-Cleanse, Filter Fresh, or Baqua Spa Filter Cleaner**) or another product designed for cleaning pleated filter cartridges. Thoroughly rinse the cartridge again to remove oils and cleaning solution. Avoid laundry or dishwasher detergents and other household cleaner as you may end up with a major foaming problem with your hot tub if you use them.

Filter cartridges coated with algae, calcium carbonate, or other minerals should be soaked in **Filter Cleanse** or a solution of one part muriatic acid to fifteen parts water until all bubbling stops. This should only be done after all the oils and cleaning solution have been rinsed out of the filter pleats. Again, rinse the cartridge clean and reassemble in filter housing. Allowing filters to dry completely after cleaning will help destroy any resident microorganisms.





## Dolphin Robotic Pool Cleaners

The Dolphin Robotic pool cleaner automatically calculates the most effective pool cleaning patterns according to your pool's dimensions. The Dolphin will clean any shape pool up to 1250 sq. ft. and scrub it free of dirt, algae, and bacteria. It climbs walls to the waterline, maneuvers around ladders, drains and stairs, and shuts itself off automatically once the pool is clean. Not only does Dolphin clean your pool spotlessly clean, it also filters your water at the same time. Because it works independently from your filter system, it cleans up to 4,750 gallons per hour while helping to distribute pool chemicals. The powerful Dolphin cleaner traps debris in it's own internal filter bag, so you will not need to clean your pump basket or backwash your filter as often.

The Dolphin is completely safe and operates on 24 volts at a cost of pennies a day. The energy-efficient system saves both water and electricity while intelligently covering the entire pool floor, walls, and waterline during every cleaning cycle. Dolphin comes complete with transformer, 50 feet of cord, and 2-micron filter bags.

Pools are meant for fun not work. So stop spending hours manually vacuuming your pool. Come see us and invest in an automatic robotic pool cleaner to do the work for you!

# T'is the Season For Stocking Stuffers

## HOLIDAY DUCKS



Our **Duck Collection** is the best in the country! When the weather outside is frightful, these ducks are just delightful! Our holiday assortment includes a snowman, reindeer, ice skater, and Santa Duck all dressed up in their holiday caps and scarves.



Got a “ring around the spa”? Help is on the way with **Scumball** and a variety of other oil absorbing sponges. They absorb from 30 to 40 times their weight in oils that gather on the water’s surface. They help save your filters from becoming coated with oils and extend filter life.



## How's Your Hot Tub Cover?

Hot tub covers take a lot of abuse. They are tugged, lifted, pulled, dropped and dragged, leaned on, and even sat on. They are exposed to sun and weather year round. They're chewed on by dogs, scratched by cats and torn by raccoons. After 3-4 years, most covers are either badly worn or ripped or the foam cores are heavy, moldy, damp or cracked. It's a miracle covers last as long as they do!

Significant heat loss can result from a badly worn cover with cracked cores. Don't pay more in heating costs than you should. Take some time to do an assessment on the condition of your cover. If it is badly worn or torn and weighs more than the picnic table, call us for a new cover today! Replace your cover now before prices go up and enjoy it all winter.

## Hot Tub Cover Measurement

Measuring a spa accurately before placing the order for the cover is perhaps the single most important step in achieving an impressive finished project. Order forms are available at our retail stores that contain the following vital information needed for ordering a cover

- Shape of the spa (square, round, rectangle, etc.)
- Length and width of the spa (in inches)
- Shape and measurements of the corners (square, round, diagonal, etc.)
- Direction or orientation of the center hinge
- Length of the cover skirt (flap)
- Color of the cover



## SmartRail

The sturdy SmartRail is made of rust-free aluminum and has a slip-free, black foam grip for comfort. Can be mounted on either the spa or deck. Ideal for sunken tubs to stabilize stepping down into the tub.



## 303 Spa Cover Vinyl Protectant

- helps vinyl repel dust, dirt, tree sap and stains
- restores lost color and luster
- treated vinyl stays cleaner longer and cleans up easier
- Easy application. Just spray on, wipe dry

Deluxe 2' **hot tub skimmer** allows easy retrieval of surface debris. One piece molded frame and long-wear mesh screening offer strength and durability.



## WCI POOLS AND SPAS

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*"making  
water fun"*

## What to do When Your Hot Tub Isn't Working In Cold Weather

If your hot tub is not operating in cold weather (below 25F) it is important to take measures to protect the tub and equipment. The easiest thing that you can do is to put a sump pump in the tub. Use a 1/4 horsepower or larger sump pump. Place the pump in the center of the tub. Do not attach a hose. Plug the pump in and allow the pump to re-circulate the water within the hot tub. The efficiency of sump pumps causes them to radiate heat. By running the sump pump continuously, you will begin adding heat back into the tub water.

This heat will radiate outward and keep the insulated pipes warm until a technician can get to the hot tub for repair. This same sump pump can be used to pump water out of the tub when it is time to drain and refill.



### Proper Water Balance Ranges

pH	7.2 - 7.6
Alkalinity	125 - 150 ppm
Calcium Hardness	100 - 200 ppm

### Tech Tip: Water Puddles

Sometimes a hot tub cover, which has been weight-stressed, will develop water puddles due to sagging. Some cheap covers (and many older ones) were not designed with a tapered core for proper water runoff, which exacerbates the problem.

If you get a small puddle on your cover, unzip the vinyl covering, carefully remove the foam core, and flip it over. Flipping sometimes corrects this issue (at least temporarily) if not too severe.

### December Clearance Sale

Visit our showrooms in Ames and Urbandale during the month of December to get great deals on clearance priced 2010 models of our in-stock Jacuzzi Hot Tubs. Financing Available. Take advantage of 12- or 18-month deferred interest with payment. Offer good until December 31, 2010.



### Tech Tip: Spa Chlorine

Be careful when purchasing any chlorine that says "usable for swimming pools and spas" on the label. Make sure all labels say the chlorine is for use in spas and consists of a sodium dichlor formula and not a calcium hypochlorite formula. Prolonged use of the latter will raise the calcium content of the water and may cause a scale to deposit on the heater element reducing heat output and operating efficiency.

### Reminder

Nature2 and ProClear Water Care System Owners:  
Change your silver ion cartridge every four months.

DES MOINES



Visit our booth #917 at the  
Home & Garden Show in  
the Iowa Events Center in  
Des Moines  
February 10 - 13, 2011.



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