

Tips to make your hot tub cover last longer.

1. Clean your hot tub cover when you drain and refill your spa.

Use simple soap and water or cover cleaner to keep the cover free from dirt and stains. It is important to not only clean the outside, but clean the inside as well. It is easiest to remove the cover from the spa, stand it on end then wash and rinse away from the tub.

Wipe chemical residue from the underside of the cover every chance you get. These residues, if left on the cover, start to break down the material causing it to become porous. Water vapor begins to penetrate the EPS core when its protective layers become too porous.

2. In the summer, unzip the vinyl cover and air out the foam. Before you put it back in, carefully flip it over, (just like turning a mattress). This will help to keep the foam inside from warping under the weight of rain or snow and help prevent low spots, puddles and sagging in the middle. At this time you can check for mold growth which can cause a smell.

Also, unzip the cover and clean just inside the zipper at least twice per year. Mildew has a tendency to build up here. Use a weak ammonia and water solution and rinse.

3. Use a cover conditioner on the cover yearly after you have cleaned it with soap and water. This will help keep the vinyl outer cover supple and will help to weatherproof the stitching, etc. A good liquid car wax will work as well, be sure to let it dry and buff it to a shine.

4. Use a product to protect the vinyl from sun damage. Sunlight degrades vinyl. If your spa cover gets a lot of sun exposure be sure to protect it from UV damage.

5. Be sure to maintain a good chemical balance in your spa.

The vapors coming off the hot tub are less corrosive when your spa water chemistry is balanced. Both acidic (low pH) and basic (high pH) water will damage the petroleum-based materials in the protective layers of your cover. Professional water balancing every three weeks or at least once per month.

6. Always use an insulating floating blanket on the surface of the water, this will keep the water warmer and drastically cut down on evaporation. Cutting down evaporation reduces the amount of damage done to the cover. The barrier created between the spa water and the cover by using a floating blanket significantly reduces corrosion.

7. NEVER shock your tub with a hardcover on.

This will not allow the bacteria and chloramines to oxidize properly into the air and it could cause damaging vapors to attack the underside of your spa cover. Remove the cover for 20-30 minutes after shocking your spa water. As the shock is burning out the Chloramines and Bromamines in your spa, highly corrosive vapors are released. Your cover has a foam core that is wrapped by a polyethylene sheet then covered by vinyl. Moisture is steadily absorbed when the polyethylene sheet gets a hole or decomposes and your cover becomes heavier and heavier. Prolonged exposure to concentrated caustic vapors can cause the polyethylene sheeting to become brittle, crack or splinter into pieces or the seals just fail with.

8. If your spa is equipped with an ozonator, adjust your ozone cycle to reflect the amount of use your spa actually gets (aka the bather load). If you adjust the ozone cycle up and stop using the spa for a while then there is nothing for the ozone to sanitize. A layer of ozone gas builds up between the cover and the water. It works on the bottom of your spa cover. Always use a floating thermal blanket in a hot tub with an ozone sanitation system.

9. Using a cover lift will increase the life of your cover. Avoid cracking the foam core by accidentally dropping the cover or chipping an edge or corner. A cover can get crunched while it lies next to the hot tub.

Utilizing these hints will extend the life of your hot tub cover and keep it looking better longer.

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