



PUREWATER

TOTAL HOME LEISURE

EXTENDING THE LIFE OF SPA PILLOWS

Some owners get ten years out of their pillows, others 10 months. Here's how to get longer life out of yours! Spa pillows can be a source of frustration. A soft and permeable surface inside the spa, they are vulnerable to rapid deterioration should there be a chemical problem. Wear or erosion of the pillows is often a warning sign that something is amiss, which can lead to more substantial and costly damage, including wear to the heater and erosion of plastic or stainless steel jets. This is an avoidable situation if you follow the steps below:

1. In the necessary course of killing bacteria, your spa will use and produce corrosive compounds and gases. Gases are produced by chemicals (chlorine or bromine) and ozone as a method to effectively remove bacteria and organic waste from the water. With the improvement of insulating properties of spa covers, almost all of the warm air inside is isolated from the outside air. This creates a 'thermos'-like effect which traps the corrosive gas. It is imperative that your spa get regular opportunities to 'off-gas'; to exchange the corrosive gases trapped under the spa cover with clean fresh air. Frequent use is NOT the problem, rather, when spas are used less often, you will need to open the cover for 10-15 minutes, 3 or 4 times each week. If you plan to travel for a couple of weeks, or expect a prolonged period of non-use, consider removing the pillows during that interval. If you find that you are an infrequent user, consider having your ozone generator disabled.
2. Bromine is the most popular spa treatment chemical because it is relatively gentle on skin and eyes, and less pungent than chlorine. Both chlorine and bromine kill bacteria via the production of related acidic compounds, hypochlorous or hypobromous acid. As the name suggests, these are corrosive elements and should be kept within the suggested ideal range. In addition, water is more corrosive if pH or calcium content is too low, so proper maintenance of water balance is important. There is regular demand for buffer (agents to raise the pH and alkalinity) which should be checked and corrected as needed; once a week is not uncommon. As well, low calcium content can result in erosion. Please be sure to bring a sample by our store every 6 weeks or so to ensure these balances are checked.
3. Shocking the spa periodically is a necessity to keep the water safe. Spa manufacturers realize that exposure to shock treatment is tough on the pillows, and recommend that the pillows be removed every time you shock. Shocking produces a burst of the corrosive gasses discussed above, and can make the water itself more corrosive. Removing the pillows is a time consuming proposition, and many consumers will not go to that effort. If you really want to extend the life of the pillows, consider this option. Most importantly, be sure that when you do shock the spa you leave the cover off for at least 15 minutes to allow the corrosive gases to escape.
4. As part of your cleaning and maintenance routine, we recommend that you remove and clean the pillows with Bioguard Spa & Tub cleaner or Clean & Perfect (a green alternative) about once a month. Be sure to rinse after cleaning to avoid foaming. This will help preserve the pillow by removing any corrosive elements that have adhered to the surface. In addition, we have found that 303 Protectant spray also provides an effective way to shield the pillows.
5. Consider, as part of your weekly treatment, using chemical alternatives, such as the enzyme based Spa Perfect or Refresh products. These natural enzymes not only do not corrode, they also significantly reduce the demand for and use of more traditional, corrosive chemical agents.

IF YOU CONTINUE TO HAVE PROBLEMS CALL US AT 726-0099