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# **SCALE** in Hot Tubs

# What Scale Looks Like... How Do You Know it's Scale?:

- -Scale can be white, off-white, beige, bone color, or yellowish.
- -Scale can be curved or flat.
- -Some scale can come in the form of a chalky build-up, mostly around the water line of the hot tub shell.
- -Some scale also floats in the water as hard, egg shell looking pieces or can also be soft and resemble what some people describe as human mucus (this is the most common type of scale.) The most common time this type of scale flares-up, too, is after you drained and re-filled your tub, or after you've first filled it after the hot tub was drained for a long duration of time.

#### **How to Get Rid of Scale Floating in Your Hot Tub:**

The key to reducing the floating scale in your hot tub is to stop relying on the hot tub to filter the scale. It is also necessary to begin a regular application of a spa chemical scale protector (Leisure Time DEFENDER, sold at our store.) This will prevent additional build-up of new scale while you get rid of the old scale floating in your hot tub. Now remember, this scale also sinks down to the floor, and into the jets, and comes back out when you run the jets. This is to your advantage, however, because you can make the scale come up to the top and skim it out with a swimming pool skimmer net. Spend a total of 30 minutes a day; run the jets on high speed for 15 seconds and then kill the jets. Immediately after, run the skimmer net across the top of the hot tub water, to collect the floating scale. Shake out your net with each sweep. After a few passes, run the jets and re-sweep the scale out of your hot tub. You'll notice an immediate improvement in the level of scale floating in the hot tub. The key here is to do this many times to catch the scale before it can fall back into your jets. Rinse out your filters more often as well, so you can also get the smaller scale particles out of your hot tub.

<u>How to Get Rid of Scale Build-Up on Your Hot Tub Shell:</u>
The key to reducing the build-up of scale on your hot tub shell is to begin a regular application of a spa chemical scale protector (Leisure Time DEFENDER, sold at our store.) This will prevent additional buildup of new scale, but you still have to get rid of the existing build-up on the shell. What works best for this is a cleaning chemical sold at our store. It is called SCALE-OFF. Please note that this chemical should only be used on the shell when the water has been drained. You do not want to mix SCALE-OFF with the hot tub water, because it foams a lot. Follow the directions on the SCALE-OFF bottle exactly how it reads, but we will say you'll have to put a little elbow grease into this job. If your shell is a smooth texture, use a non-abrasive brush or rag. Before re-filling your hot tub, after using SCALE-OFF, be sure to rinse the shell thoroughly, and get rid of the left over water, after the rinsing, that will still be in the bottom of the tub and on the seats. If you have any questions or concerns on this, please do not hesitate to call us.

# **Other Tips:**

There is a spa chemical called Leisure Time JET CLEAN (sold at our store) that you use just before draining your tub. JET CLEAN works best for the floating scale problem. It is a fairly harsh spa chemical that breaks scale from the inside of the spa jets and pipes, making the process of completely getting rid of the scale a lot faster for you. You then must flush out the chemical from the pipes (follow the directions below.) It may take a few times of draining and filling, with re-skimming in between, to get the best results, but JET CLEAN sure helps!!!

The key as well is to ALWAYS, ALWAYS do this:

- -Add a weekly Stain & Scale Control ("Defender")!
- -Keep Total Alkalinity between the hot tub ideal range of 80 125 p.p.m.!
- -Keep pH in the ideal 7.2 7.6 range!
- -Keep Calcium Hardness between the hot tub ideal 300 400 p.p.m. range!

Do all of this so scale doesn't continue to build up!

#### **How to Use Leisure Time DEFENDER:**

## -If you're are using Chlorine or Bromine as a sanitizer...

One time per week, add \* DEFENDER directly to the water with the jets on high speed.

- \*If you have up to 800 gallons of water in your hot tub, add 2 oz per week.
- \*If you have over 800 gallons of water up to 1,200 gallons, add 4 oz per week.

### If you're using the BaquaSpa system...

One time per week, add \* DEFENDER directly to the water with the jets on high speed.

- \*If you have up to 800 gallons of water in your hot tub, add 1 oz per week.
- \*If you have over 800 gallons of water up to 1,200 gallons, add 2 oz per week.

#### How to Use Leisure Time JET CLEAN When You're Ready to Drain Your Hot Tub:

You should drain your hot tub every 3 - 6 months, depending on hot tub usage. (Average draining time is every 4 months.)

#### Step 1:

Remove your filter(s) and be sure there is nothing in the hot tub that could get sucked down into the holes where your filters were (chemical floaters, rubber duckies and other toys, etc.)

#### Step 2:

Add a full bottle of JET CLEAN directly to the water with the jets on high speed. Run the jets for at least 15 minutes, but if you have bad scaling issues, we recommend you run jets longer.

#### Step 3:

Drain the hot tub, and as the water is going down, be sure to run water through each jet so that the foamy JET CLEAN chemical is completely flushed out with your old water. (JET CLEAN gets the water very foamy, and if you don't get it completely out, your new water could be foamy for a few days after re-filling.)

#### Step 4:

Fill that baby back up!!!

Scale is a pain in the butt, and hopefully after reading this, you won't have to deal with it again!

If you have any other questions, please do not hesitate to contact us!

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