Cold Weather Spa Start-Up

Even if your spa was winterized, that doesn't mean its not cold, follow these instructions!!!

Starting a new spa with cold water in sub-freezing weather is problematic and is made more difficult by every degree drop below 32°F. If the spa is filled with hot, balanced water from a spa and pool water supplier, there is no problem. Filling a spa with water from a residential water heater is impractical, since most hold only 40 to 60 gallons. *Do not fill the spa by fastening a hose to the sediment drain on a water heater.* The sediment will react with the spa chemicals and plug the filters almost immediately.

Filling a Spa with Cold Well or City Water

Putting water into a spa that has been sitting outside in temperatures below 32 degrees is not recommended. If the spa has any residual wetness inside the pumps from factory testing, the impellers could be stuck. Turning on the spa may or may not free the impellers, but the spa will likely go into freeze protection mode instantly. If the impellers are stuck, the pump fuse(s) could blow. At temperatures less than 10 degrees, water will flash-freeze on contact with plastic or metal parts.

If it's not possible to wait for moderating temperatures, our suggestion is to put a small electric ceramic space heater inside the spa cabinet overnight to pre-warm the plumbing before putting cold water into the spa 24 hours or more. These types of inexpensive small space heaters are available at many discount stores and home centers, and are the same kind often used to place under desks in cold offices.

Cold-Weather Practice

The factories put non-toxic RV-type antifreeze into their Hot Tubs and Swim Spas for shipping and they winterize all spas to prevent ice-locked pump impellers in the winter. However, this practice will not prevent water from flash-freezing or turning into ice and slush inside the pumps and plumbing. Spa owners are solely responsible for any malfunction or damage caused by filling any spa at extremely low temperatures.

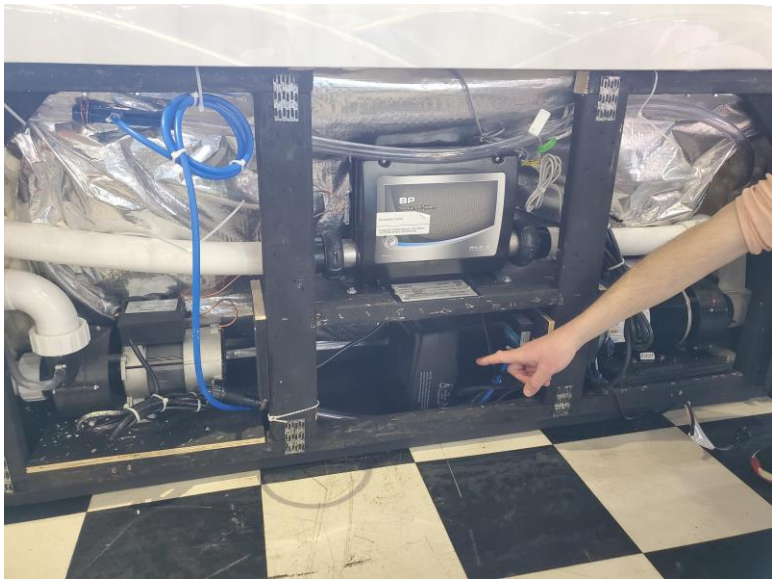
Here are picture examples of what is recommended.



Small, personal ceramic space heater, sold at Menards, Home Depot, Walmart.

<u>We recommend this is done when the electrician is there to wire the spa!</u>

Place the space heater inside of the spa cabinet, there is usually a convenient spot located below the control pack, face the space heater left or right, as shown here. Do not face the heater in or out towards the skirt. Turn the heater on high.





Reinstall the skirting on the spa and let the cord hang out the corner of the skirting. Plug in and heat for at least 24 hours before filling. We recommend you leave the heater in once full of water and running
(unplugged) and tuck the cord up into the corner should you ever need to use it in your spa in the future.

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