



Consulting, Resource, Education, Training, and Support Services for Home Inspectors  
*"A candle loses no light when it lights another candle."*

## Cleaning Hydromassage/Jacuzzi Tub Systems

Most owners of hydromassage bathtubs, often referred to as jetted, whirlpool, or Jacuzzi tubs, know these using such tubs not only provides therapeutic relief for minor aches and pains but they feel good and help alleviate stress. What many owners of such tubs don't know is that units which utilize piping to deliver the circulated water to the jets can also be breeding grounds for bacteria – bacteria that can cause everything from skin rashes to pulmonary disease.

When such piped units are used and then drained, water remains in the piping and this water contains body oils, dead skin flakes, soap, and the residue of any bath salts or bath oils which may have been added to the bathwater. Because the inside of the piping is warm, wet, and dark, it provides a perfect environment for fostering the growth of bacteria. This means that the next time the tub is filled and the pump is turned on, any bacterial growth is circulated in the tub water.

Fortunately, there is something that owners of these tubs can do to clean out and sanitize the piping to reduce the potential for bacterial infection. The following information outlines one method for cleaning and sanitizing hydromassage tub piping.

- After each time the tub is used and drained, immediately refill the tub with **COLD** water to a minimum of 2" above the highest jet and make sure that all of the jet nozzles are all pointing downward. Then, turn on the system and allow it to run for two to three (2 - 3) minutes to rinse most of the soap, bath oils and salts, and body oils out of the piping.
- Once a month or after any long period of nonuse, disinfect the system by doing the following:
- Fill the tub with **HOT** water to a minimum of 2" above the highest jet and aim all of the jet nozzles downward. Add 2 to 3 tablespoons of powdered or liquid dishwasher detergent and a **MAXIMUM** of 4 ounces of household bleach directly to the water (Caution: too much bleach may cause staining or dull spots on the tub surface). Then, run the system for at least ten (10) minutes.
- After turning the system off, drain the tub and fill it with **COLD** water to a minimum of 2" above the highest jet and with all of the jet nozzles aimed downward. Then, run the system for ten (10) minutes to rinse it out. Finally, drain the tub and wipe it dry.

A source for hydromassage tub cleaning products can be found online at:  
[www.hydromassageproducts.com/water-purity.html](http://www.hydromassageproducts.com/water-purity.html)