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Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Jetted Tub Cleaning and Sanitizing Guide

One of the top ten complaints FSRL receives from the public involving lodging establishments, concerns the cleanliness of fill and drain jetted bathtubs. Specifically, the removal of organic materials that accumulate in the jets and hose lines of certain designs of recirculation systems in jetted bathtubs.

It is essential that all organic materials are removed from the jets, drains, drain covers, surfaces and hose lines of these bath tubs in order to prevent a situation where a waterborne disease could be passed from user to user. Organic materials frequently include fecal material, urine, other body fluids, oils, soap scum, hard water residues, slime, skin, mold, bacteria (*Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Legionella* spp.), fungus, and debris. Most tub manufacturers prohibit or discourage the use of oils/oil containing product, including skin and hair conditioners with jetted bath tubs. Unfortunately, body soaps are all made with fats and oils so will be a common residue in most tubs.

For this reason, special care and attention needs to focus on the hard to reach and clean parts of these bathtubs. If the jetted bath system has a power purge system, it should be activated between each tub use.

Between different patrons and at least once per week, the following cleaning regiment needs to occur:

1. Protect hands/arms/eyes/face/clothing and other carpet/floor surfaces before beginning this activity.
2. Use in room with sufficient air circulation.
3. Likely will need a two gallon pail, different size soft brushes, and soft cleaning cloths.
4. (If easily removable), remove all jet covers, drain covers and recirculation ports. Wash and scrub these separately in bathroom lavatory using appropriate grease dissolving detergents.
5. Stop the tub drain using appropriate cover to hold water in the tub.
6. Fill the tub to 2 inches above the jets with hot water/water temperature recommended by the detergent manufacturer.
7. Turn off the aeration jets.
8. Add the recommended amount of grease dissolving detergent per gallon of water in the tub. Let dissolve and mix toward the intake valve of the circulation pump. The detergent in combination with high temperatures may have harmful effects on the tub's surface and components. Do not exceed the temperatures as recommended by the tub's manufacturer.
9. Recirculate the solution in the tub and (hose lines) using the automatic systems (on the lowest setting to avoid foaming) of the tub for at least 10 minutes or as recommended by the manufacturer.
10. Clean and scrub the entire tub, jet inlets, and the drain itself with the recommended amount of *grease dissolving detergent* appropriate for the type of tub surface and tub hardware, using mechanical action, brushes(where necessary) and the detergent recommended water temperature.
11. Drain the tub.

12. Fill the tub (to above the jets) again and circulate clear water to remove detergent and residues.
13. Drain the tub.
14. Replace the jet and drain covers.
15. Fill the tub again to above the jets with luke warm clear water.
16. Sanitize the surface of the tub to reach all tub parts using no more than the recommended amount of sanitizer [appropriate for the surface] per gallon of water as recommended by the sanitizer manufacturer. Recirculate this solution using automatic systems for 5-10 minutes. (A spray solution [water with sanitizer] may be used if all parts of the tub, jets can be contacted.)
17. Drain the tub.
18. Let air dry. Do not rinse off the sanitizer.

Conventional (non-jetted) bath tubs and shower stalls should follow a similar regiment of cleaning and sanitizing.

CAUTION: Never mix chemicals! Never mix a detergent with a sanitizer!
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All tubs/showers need to have slip resistant floor surfaces. If your tub/shower does not have a built in slip-resistant surface, provide a cleanable removable shower mat in order to prevent slips, falls and injury.

Common detergents:

Powder or liquids designed to safely clean grease residues from fiberglass, acrylic, porcelain, ceramic tile, and grout and not damage chrome, stainless steel, or copper.

Common sanitizers:

- Bleach (50-100 ppm) (1/4 oz/gallon of water)
- *Quaternary Ammonium sanitizers
- *Iodine designed for this purpose
- *Acid designed for this purpose
- *Hydrogen Peroxide

*List of Sanitizers that have been efficacy tested by DHS is available upon request.