

Leading, Promoting and Advocating for Environmental Public Health Professionals in Ontario

# Steps for Cleaning and Disinfecting Foot-spas In Personal Service Settings

To prevent the spread of bacteria and fungus, foot-spas must be cleaned and disinfected using the following procedures:

### A. After each client:

- 1. Drain the foot-spa completely.
- 2. Wash foot- spa basin with detergent and water and use a brush to remove dirt. Rinse with water.
- 3. Refill foot-spa with lukewarm water just above the jets.
- 4. Add a disinfectant approved by the spa manufacturer to the water in the foot-spa. If using 5% household chlorine bleach, add 3 tablespoons of bleach for each gallon of water in the foot-spa.
- 5. Activate jets and flush for a minimum of 10 minutes.
- 6. Drain the foot-spa and wipe dry.

### **B.** At the end of each day:

- 1. Using a screwdriver, remove the screen from the foot-spa basin. Remove the drain plug. Clean the screen and drain plug with detergent and a brush.
- 2. Soak the screen and drain plug for 10 minutes in a solution of 1 teaspoons of 5% household bleach for each cup of lukewarm water.
- 3. Replace screen and drain plug.
- 4. Refill foot-spa with water just above the jets. Add 2 or 3 tablespoons of low sudsing detergent, turn on the jets, flush for 5 minutes, drain and fill again with clean water to rinse out the detergent. Drain.
- 5. Refill foot-spa with lukewarm water just above the jets.
- 6. Add a disinfectant approved by the spa manufacturer to the water in the foot-spa. If using 5% household chlorine bleach, add 6 tablespoons (1/4 cup) of bleach for each gallon of water in the foot- spa.
- 7. Activate jets and flush for 10 minutes.
- 8. Drain the foot-spa and wipe dry.

**Do not** use oil-based products in the foot-spa or on the client's feet or legs before they use the foot-spa. Oil will build up in the recirculation lines and give bacteria a breeding ground.

Never mix chlorine bleach with ammonia products. The combination produces toxic chlorine gas.

## CONTACT YOUR LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOR MORE INFORMATION.

### Timiskaming Health Unit

New Liskeard 705-647-4305 1-866-747-4305 Englehart 705-544-2221 1-877-544-2221 Kirkland Lake 705-567-9355 1-866-967-9355

