

An Introduction to Caldera Freshwater Salt

What Is The Caldera Freshwater Salt System?



The Freshwater salt system is a patented natural chlorine production system from Watkins Wellness. This system generates chlorine from salt dissolved within the spa water. The hot tub has a salt cartridge installed which is designed to last for four months.



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What Are The Benefits Of This System?

- Natural chlorine production from salt - less chemicals added to the water manually and softer on your skin.
- In-line consistent chlorine production reduces the spikes and troughs in chlorine levels that you experience when adding manually, keeping your water fresher for longer.
- Full system integration. Control your salt system with your fingertips on your Caldera hot tub control panel - increase or decrease power to the system, view your salt level and view any errors.
- Salt water provides natural healing benefits for your skin.

What A Salt System Is NOT!

- Freshwater Salt does not mean a chlorine free hot tub - the Freshwater salt system produces chlorine from salt so it is a chlorine-based system.
- Set and forget! All hot tubs are different, based on usage, location as well as quality of the tap water. There is no such thing as a 'set and forget' system. Hot tubs run on salt still require clean filters, pH, Calcium Hardness, Alkalinity, Phosphate testing – with levels altered as required and of course the chlorine production needs to be monitored and altered as required based on bather load and usage.

How Does It Work & What Are The Components?

A base salt level is added to the water at the initial fill, the titanium cartridge then produces chlorine from this salt. Alkalinity, Hardness, Phosphate levels and pH are then balanced regularly as normal. Chlorine levels are increased by 'boosting' the system or increasing the output power level (Level from 0-10).

Freshwater Salt consists of two main components:

Salt Controller

Plugged in to the control system when the hot tub is installed. The brains of the system. Left inside the hot tub and only accessed to diagnose faults.

Salt Cell Cartridge

Accessed on the hot tub bar top. Replaced every 4 months. This cartridge is where the chlorine is produced.

Projected Running Costs Of A Freshwater Salt Hot Tub

- Freshwater Salt Cartridges - £270 per year (3 pack of cartridges).
- Salt – Mainly added when the tub is drained/refilled. Estimated £50 per year (two bags).
- As with any hot tub, water must be tested regularly and pH, Calcium Hardness, Phosphate and Alkalinity must be balanced and filters must be kept clean.

For test strips and other chemicals, we estimate £100 per year. Estimated yearly cost of maintaining the Freshwater Salt System £420 per year

FAQs

Will I Ever Have To Add Chlorine Manually?

Yes, during the first 3-5 days, you will need a base chlorine level of 3-5ppm and this is topped up using manual chlorine. You may also need to add extra chlorine during periods of heavy usage to bring the chlorine level back up.

Why Does pH, Calcium Hardness, Phosphate And Alkalinity Still Need To Be Balanced?

The Freshwater Salt System is a chlorine production system so most of the time it replaces the requirement to add chlorine to the hot tub. All other readings are separate to this and they affect water quality, bather comfort, the effectiveness of chlorine and must be balanced to ensure the Freshwater Salt system functions effectively and to ensure your hot tub water stays safe and clean.

How Often Do You Have To Add Salt?

After the initial dose of salt into the water, you should not have to add much if any salt. You will have to add salt when topping up the water or when draining the water and refilling.

How Often Do You Have To Drain & Re-Fill The Hot Tub?

We recommend that all hot tubs irrelevant of the chemical system are drained and re-filled every 3-4 months. With salt systems you can sometimes get a bit longer out of the water but it is good practice to flush the pipes 3 times a year to keep the hot tub in good working order.

Please note that Watkins Wellness suggest you can reach 12 months with the same water, this is based on US regulation and is not applicable to the UK.

What Is Freshwater IQ?

Freshwater IQ is a smart water monitoring system integrated into Caldera hot tubs it works in conjunction with their existing Freshwater Salt System to provide water treatment guidance.

What Are The Benefits Of This System?

- Hourly testing of your water from the patented technology with results displayed on the touch screen control panel - provides more accurate testing than test strips.
- Results are displayed in an easy to use traffic light system – Red, Amber, Green.
- Cleaner water. FreshWater IQ uses the FreshWater Salt System to generate the perfect amount of chlorine. With fewer chemicals, water feels softer and gentler on eyes and skin.
- No more guesswork. Easy to follow on-screen recommendations tell you what to do to maintain clean, natural feeling water with less guesswork on your part.

How Does It Work?

The system uses a patented sensor built- into the hot tub to monitor and to test the water every hour and it provides recommendations for adjusting salt levels, chlorine production and also pH.

Ongoing Costs

Freshwater IQ Replacement Sensor (12-month lifespan) £110

Plus Salt System costs of approximately £420 per year

TOTAL Forecast Annual Cost of Freshwater IQ System £530

FAQs

Which Hot Tubs Can Have The Freshwater IQ System?

The Freshwater IQ system is only compatible with Caldera Paradise and Utopia hot tubs. However, Freshwater salt without the smart IQ monitoring system is an upgrade option on the Vacanza series.

How Long Does The IQ Sensor Last?

The sensor has a lifespan of 12 months and is replaceable at a cost of £110 each year.

Can you use Freshwater IQ Without the Freshwater Salt System?

No, Freshwater IQ can only be used on hot tubs fitted with the Freshwater Salt System.