Cyanuric Acid Reduction Checklist

A quick reference for lowering CYA in your hot tub without draining it. From Hot Tub Patio.

The 7-Step Process

- **Step 1.** Test your current CYA level so you have a real baseline.
- **Step 2.** Judge how far over range you are (50 to 70 ppm vs. well above 70 ppm).
- **Step 3.** Pick a starting method: reducer or carbon filtration for moderate levels, reverse osmosis for high levels.
- **Step 4.** Apply the treatment as part of your regular maintenance routine.
- **Step 5.** Retest every few days and track the trend, not a single reading.
- **Step 6.** Layer a second method if progress stalls after a week or two.
- **Step 7.** Reassess after 2 to 3 weeks. If still well above 50 ppm, plan a partial drain instead.

Safe CYA Levels at a Glance

CYA Level	Condition	What To Do
0 to 30 ppm	Low or none	Fine for most hot tubs, especially covered or indoor ones.
30 to 50 ppm	Acceptable range	Maintain here if using stabilized chlorine products.
Above 50 ppm	Too high	Start reduction methods below, or plan a partial drain.

Non-Drain Methods Compared

Method	Speed	Best For
CYA reducer	1 to 2 weeks	Moderate readings (50 to 70 ppm)
Activated carbon filtration	Several weeks	Gradual, ongoing maintenance
Reverse osmosis	Days	High readings, fastest non-drain option
Ion exchange resin	Varies	After other methods plateau

For the full guide, including reducer dosing tips and when to drain instead, visit hottubpatio.com/lower-cyanuric-acid-without-draining