

Buying Your First Hot Tub?

Critical Step-by-Step Guide



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When it comes to luxurious living, not much in life satisfies like a soothing hot tub at home. Submerging a tired, achy body in warm massaging water is divine – an enjoyable and convenient way to look and feel your best.

With unparalleled opportunities to relax, make lasting improvements to health, even entertain, families, single professionals and retirees are making the investment. However, if you've never purchased a hot tub before and you have questions or you're not sure where to start, this guide can help.

Before making any investment, it's always a good idea to seek out resources to help inform the process. Shopping for a new spa is exciting, but it can also be overwhelming without direction and a plan. With endless brands, exciting models and state-of-the-art features to choose from, shopping with a plan is a smart strategy and the key to choosing the one hot tub that fits your needs, lifestyle and budget.

We've created this hot tub buying guide as a resource for consumers just like you who stand to benefit from trusted advice, guidance and support – before, during and after purchasing a hot tub for the first time. With pointers on how to find, take delivery and enjoy your new investment, you'll find everything you need to secure a fantastic hot tub dream retreat for optimized health, fun and relaxation. Ready to get started?



What Size Hot Tub Should You Buy?

If you're serious about purchasing a new hot tub, chances are pretty good that you've explored a few different options. Browsing your local dealership is fun, and an easy way to see popular brands on display. The Internet is also jam-packed with images and information on some of the most in-demand spas on the market.

However, constructing the perfect hot tub get-a-way in your head is one thing, but methodically going through the process of making the numbers work is quite another. If you're in the "seriously looking" phase, but haven't given some thought to size yet, now is the time.



Choosing the right size hot tub doesn't seem like it should be a big deal. After all, you know the measurements of the space you have available, all you need to do is buy how much tub you can afford and nothing more, right?

Unfortunately, it isn't that easy. In fact, what many first time buyers fail to know is that an extraordinary hot tub experience has everything to do with choosing the right size tub. Here's why.

Bigger Isn't Always Better – Buy for Who Will Use It Most - You're not alone if your first instinct when shopping for a new spa is to buy the biggest spa you can afford. Surprisingly, bigger doesn't necessarily equal better. And in some cases, depending on what your intention is with the hot tub, bigger may even be a detriment. Size should be based on who will be using the hot tub the most.



As an empty nester, do you really need a tub that fits seven adults? Maybe you do. If you have a large family or plan on entertaining crowds, an oversized party tub may be the right choice.

Think through who will be using the spa on a regular basis and narrow your choices to those models that fit your needs best. Remember, a larger tub isn't necessarily better – and a tub that's too large wastes water and energy.

Optimize Space in the Hot Tub – Buy for What You Are Using It For - Think about what you plan to do in the hot tub. Will you be using it to exercise? Will you be relaxing, or do you plan to entertain guests? Answers to these questions can help guide decision-making when it comes to choosing the most appropriate size spa.

For instance, if your goal with ownership is entertainment and fun, then easy seating is important and models that offer the most space for guests to move around would be best. Bench style seating typically offers more flexibility for guests to enjoy the hot tub together.

On the other hand, if you're looking to relieve pain or manage elevated stress, you'll likely want to choose a tub that maximizes personal hydrotherapy with optimized seating for the most intense hydro-massage. A smaller tub with one or two high performance loungers may be the right choice. Be mindful of how you plan on using the tub, and let these ideas guide your choices as you shop.



There are many reasons to invest – fun, pain relief, stress reduction etc. Thinking about what you plan to do in the tub will help you choose the perfect size to accommodate your goals in seating options, accessories, even lighting.

Where Are You Going to Put Your New Hot Tub?



After narrowing your choices to a few of the very best hot tubs, it's time to start thinking about where at home you plan on using it. Spa placement isn't a topic that most people wish to spend a lot of time on, but it's one of the most important.

Even if you think you have identified the perfect spot for your new investment, it's always a good idea to take a few minutes to consider any factors that could impact your ultimate decision.

Proximity to the House - An outdoor hot tub retreat is sublime. Relaxing in bubbly water under the stars in the midst of winter or on a summer eve with a few friends is fantastic. However, before committing to the one place outdoors that you think is better than the rest, think about proximity to the house and how easy or difficult it will be to get back indoors after enjoying a dip.

In general, hot tub enthusiasts say they prefer being closer to the house rather than further away, as factors like weather and using the facilities can be difficult. Distance matters. The lovely walk through the garden path to the back door is enchanting in spring, but a dangerous nightmare in the evening or when there's snow on the ground.



Privacy - How important is it to have complete seclusion when enjoying your new hot tub? If privacy is a high priority, be sure to consider all four seasons when evaluating bushes, hedges and trees for privacy. The gorgeous overflowing greenery that offer such wonderful privacy in the summer may be bare come winter, destroying not only your ambiance, but also, your privacy.

Landscaping - Finally, don't underestimate the aesthetic appeal of a spectacular hot tub for creating a stunning focal point in your backyard. With incredibly sophisticated surrounds and a wide range of design options, the right hot tub can complement landscaping objectives quite nicely.

Easy Water Care is Critical Water Management System Options

A luxurious spa requires maintenance and know-how, but smart choices and the right water management system can make caring for your new spa effortless. After all, would you rather spend time maintaining your investment or enjoying it? Here are some important things to know about sanitization systems, jets and features that can save you time, energy and money.

Sanitize – Opt for Easy and Convenient - Spa water that's clean is healthy – and that's the key to an exceptional experience. With ease of use and convenience prioritized, innovative water care systems help make hot tub water maintenance simple and uncomplicated.

Salt water systems are popular because they generate chlorine automatically for clean, sanitized spa water. Hot tub enthusiasts note that salt water is easy on the skin and eyes too, which is always good. Chlorine free options are available as well, which work to keep water sanitized without relying on harsh chemicals.



Choose Adjustable Jets for Customized Massage - For a memorable spa experience, jets are everything – but more does not necessarily mean better. In fact, it's the combination and placement of jets, not the number that really matters. A customized experience is best, with a variety of jets targeting different muscle groups.



What should you look for? At the very least, seek out jet clusters with adjustable jets for a customized massage. The right combination should include powerful jets for a deep massage and others equipped with precision targeting and a light touch for more delicate areas of the body.


Be sure to compare models and inquire about taking a wet test – reputable dealers are always willing to set something up for you to test those tubs you are interested in.

100% No-Bypass Filtration - An efficient filtration system is the key to easy maintenance resulting in reduced time and energy. Only 100% no-bypass filtration ensures that the water in your spa is cleaned all the time, even when the jets are on. Optimized filtration means you can use the water in your spa longer, which reduces maintenance needs.

Energy Efficient Hot Tubs Save You Money

Finally, who doesn't want to save a few dollars? When making a large investment such as an in home hot tub, be sure to look for energy efficient models.

The best hot tub brands recognize that today's consumers are looking to purchase products that prioritize energy efficiency and innovative companies are engineering tubs with components that are designed to keep operating costs low.

A screenshot of a web form with a red background. The title "ESTIMATE YOUR MONTHLY OPERATING COSTS" is at the top in white. Below it are two white input fields with red placeholder text: "Select a Model" and "Select a Climate and Rate". At the bottom is a white button with the text "Calculate Cost" and a red right-pointing arrow.

Fortunately, energy efficient spas can be high performers and can deliver an extraordinary combination of soothing massage with powerful jets and reliable heaters. With low energy consumption as the goal, here are a few things to keep in mind when browsing energy efficient hot tubs brands.

Money Saving Features - Spas that showcase money saving features are in high demand, and for good reason. But not everyone knows what to look for. All spas rely on insulation, but those who use high quality, high-density insulation in both the shell and the cover are more likely to save you money long term. A tight fitting cover characterized by multiple layers of dense, premium insulation works to decrease heat loss, which lowers your monthly energy bill, saving you money.

Hot tubs that feature energy efficient pumps and jets that can be activated only as needed reduce energy use. Some spas even have innovative heaters and pumps that transfer heat from the equipment compartment and heating component directly to the water for even more efficiency, minimizing energy consumption.



The right features can save you money immediately when you operate your spa, but also end up cutting costs in the long term as part of a highly efficient hot tub. It pays to be inquisitive when comparing different brands –even lights can be energy efficient. Don't be afraid to look around and be sure to ask a dealer or salesperson to help you determine if the hot tub you are interested in utilizes energy efficient components and smart features.

In Conclusion

The right hot tub is an amazing and powerful complement to your life. It's a soothing combination of hot water and massage for improved health, rejuvenation and anytime wellness that we can all benefit from.

However, with so many opportunities for joy, don't let the hot tub buying process leave you frustrated and overwhelmed when you can spend just a few minutes becoming informed.

Whether you're unsure how to choose the right size hot tub to fit your lifestyle, or you're wondering how to decide where your new investment should go at home, taking time to understand your options and organize your thoughts can help. Armed with the right information and insight, buying a new spa can be easy and fun.



This guide was created as support – a helpful and dependable tool to make navigating the complicated world of hot tubs simple and effortless. Use it to assist you in important phases of the buying process, like seeking out energy efficient components or comparing jet formations for the perfect hydro-massage.

Remember, there are many decisions that need to be made before stepping foot in your new hot tub; having access to the right information before buying is a smart, practical way to ensure you get a quality product that exceeds expectations.

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