

# PRO CONSUMER

Buyers Guide to Hot Tubs & Swim Spas



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# WHY BUY A SPA

Have you been thinking about purchasing a Spa? It's important to know all the benefits a Spa can provide so you can decide which one is right for you, your needs and your lifestyle. Hot Tubs and Swim Spas can provide immense improvement to your daily life with many different health, social, and investment benefits.

## HEALTH BENEFITS

Hot Tubs can help contribute to overall health improvement and progression because of the warm water and hydrotherapy jets. Everyone can find a health perk from using a Hot Tub or Swim Spa such as improved sleep, stress relief, muscle and chronic pain relief, and increased fitness.

### Improved Sleep

Daily tasks are hard to complete and enjoy when you're not getting enough sleep. Insomnia can be a big problem for lots of people, but if you were to have a soak in a Hot Tub before bed the warm water would help your body and mind relax. You would be able to fall asleep quicker and rest through the night with fewer disruptions, which would improve your overall sleep pattern.

### Stress Relief

Stress can hinder daily life but if you have a Hot Tub stress can be significantly reduced. The warm water, massage of the jets and weightlessness feeling can help you relax at anytime of the day. Think of a Spa as a great way to start the day or as a place to escape and unwind after a long hard day.



### Muscle & Chronic Pain Relief

Suffering from sore muscle aches or chronic pains can make it hard to enjoy and get through every day. Warm water and hydrotherapy massaging jets can alleviate painful body aches, while buoyancy from the water can take pressure off of joints. If you suffer from a chronic pain condition or sore muscles than owning a Spa would be a great decision to give you pain relief in the comfort of your own home.

## Increased Fitness

Swim Spas are a great way for everyone to get more exercise and improve your health at home. With features and technology allowing you to swim in place you can get a whole body workout without muscle strain. Swim Spas are perfect for exercise because the water creates resistance to help strengthen the muscles in a low impact environment.

## SOCIAL BENEFITS

When you own a Hot Tub or Swim Spa you immediately have a fun and relaxing new way to entertain family and friends. Relationships play a big factor in how much we enjoy life, so purchasing a Spa is a good way to enjoy the company of others more.

### Increased Family Time

Hot Tubs and Swim Spas are a fun way to spend more quality time with your family in a relaxing setting. Everyone from the adults to kids can enjoy a Spa and it's a great way to talk and enjoy an activity all together.



### Entertainment for Friends

A Hot Tub is an excellent way to entertain people and socialize in your own home. The atmosphere of a Spa is the perfect place to enjoy the company of friends and build on your relationships.

### Better Relationships

The ambiance of a Hot Tub set by the lights, jets and extra features make it easy to heat up your relationship with your significant other. A Spa is the ideal place to escape and reconnect with your partner because there aren't any distractions.



## INVESTMENT BENEFITS

Owning a Hot Tub can be a good investment for the future because it can add value to your property. If you are considering selling your home in the future than a Spa could potentially be used as a bargaining tool and generate more interest in your home.

# WHEN TO BUY A SPA

It can be hard to decide when you should actually make the step to purchase a Hot Tub or Swim Spa. The time of year, life stages, moving and home renovations all play big determining factors in when you should buy a Spa. The truth is there is no perfect timing for when you should buy a Spa, there are just times when it's best for you personally.

## SEASONS

### Spring

Right before summer arrives, you can get your backyard renovated and ready for entertaining. An addition of a Hot Tub or Swim Spa would be the best place to start enjoying the new season.

### Summer

Cool summer nights can be enjoyed in a Hot Tub and hot summer days are well spent if you're in a Swim Spa. The good weather is also helpful for having a smooth installation. You can also turn down the heat of most hot tubs so that the water is refreshing on hot summer days.

### Fall

The days get shorter which means they probably get more stressful, so fall is a good time to be able to enjoy a nice soak at the end of the day. The colder months are approaching so it's the perfect time to get a Spa installed.

### Winter

A Spa is a perfect way to warm up when it's cold outside. It provides a soothing, warm way to relax in the winter months. New Spa models tend to come out at this time of year so you can get the latest technology and features.



## STAGES OF LIFE

As people go through life and its many stages there are different reasons why someone would want/need a Hot Tub or Swim Spa. There are unique reasons for buying a Spa as everyone goes through early adulthood, midlife adulthood, and mature adulthood.



### **Early Adulthood**

When you're in this stage of life you might be moving into your first home and have young kids. Adding a Spa to your property can be a fantastic finishing touch to make it your own comforting home. If you have young kids this a great time to get a Spa so you can spend more fun family time together.

### **Midlife Adulthood**

As you settle into life a bit more and become more financially secure you might be able to consider getting a nicer Spa. You may have older kids now and can focus more on being able to relax by yourself or with your partner.

### **Mature Adulthood**

When you get older you have more muscle aches and pains which can be alleviated with the use of a Hot Tub or Swim Spa. At this stage of your life it's important to remain active while being able to relax and there's no better way to do that than with a Spa.

## **MOVING & RENOVATIONS**

Whether you're moving into your first home, second home, a vacation home or renovating your property this is the perfect time to get a Hot Tub or Swim Spa. You can account for the space needed for a Spa when moving or renovating so there's no better time to consider getting a Spa.

### **New Property/Home**

When moving to a new home or owning a new property there is a good opportunity to get a Spa installed. The addition of a new Spa can help make the new space more of your own. If you purchased a new vacation home than a Hot Tub can be a good way to make it a better place to escape the real world.

### **Backyard/Home Renovations**

Are you planning on renovating your backyard or home? If you're looking for an extra touch to push your renovation to the next level, than a Spa would be a great element to add. The timing is just right because you are already working to improve your space so you can account for the addition of a Hot Tub or Swim Spa in your plans.



# WHAT TO LOOK FOR WHEN BUYING A SPA

When looking to buy a Hot Tub or Swim Spa, there are a few things to keep in mind and take into consideration. Remember to look for shell construction, comfort and design, filtration, energy efficiency, hydrotherapy, options and customization, warranty and innovations.

## SHELL CONSTRUCTION

Look for a Spa with a good shell construction because it can never be replaced. You don't want your shell cracking so make sure to keep in mind that a multi-layer acrylic shell is the best option. The Spa's shell has to withstand so much pressure from the water volume and temperature that in order to stand the test of time it needs to have a strong, solid shell construction.

## COMFORT & DESIGN

The comfort of your Spa should be a top priority because if it's not comfortable you won't use it. Look for a Hot Tub that has a seating arrangement that works for you and jets placed in all the right spots. The best way to see if the Spa is comfortable and designed right for you is to do a wet test (where you sit in the Spa while it's filled with water). Make sure that you ask your dealer about scheduling a wet test for any model you are considering to purchase.



## FILTRATION

When you finally get a Spa you're going to want it to have clean and clear water, so make sure to look for a good filtration system. There are Spas with skimmer filtration and pressurized filtration which both have pros and cons. Skimmer filtration is cheaper but less efficient and releases contaminants back into the Spa water because it sits inside the bathing area. Pressurized filtration is more expensive but is commercial-grade, high performance, and traps debris without contaminating the Spas water. Public Spas can't use skimmer filtration so neither should your private Spa.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY

A Spa with good energy efficiency is ideal with the growing costs of energy and environmental issues facing society. You want to look for a Spa that has a programmable filtration pump instead of a 24 hour circulation pump. A 24 hour circulation pump runs constantly 24 hours a day, where as a programmable filtration pump runs an average of 8 hours per day instead. Get full foam insulation because it is the most energy efficient, don't fall for stories about empty space and air being the best insulator. Look for a Spa that is intelligently engineered for energy savings.

## HYDROTHERAPY

The types of jets included in a Spa are important to look for because they can give your great health benefits. Check the jets for pressure, placement, design, quality, and quantity if you are seeking hydrotherapy from your Hot Tub or Swim Spa. The massage capabilities of your Spa will determine how useful it really is in terms of alleviating sore muscles and chronic pains. Look at the horsepower of the pumps compared to how many jets are in the tub. Diverters will help to concentrate power.



## OPTIONS & CUSTOMIZATION

Spas often come with tons of options and a chance for you to create a custom spa build. It's important to look for a Hot Tub or Swim Spa that you can select different options for so you can have exactly what suites your needs and wants. Building a custom Spa allows you to be in control of what you are personally looking for from the outer appearance to the inner workings of the Spa.

## WARRANTY

A good warranty is a necessity when purchasing a Hot Tub or Swim Spa because a quality Spa will be covered even though they won't typically need to be replaced. Look for a warranty that covers everything and read the fine print to make sure you know what you're getting into. A trusted company will stand behind their warranty and guarantees.

## INNOVATIONS

The technology in Hot Tubs and Swim Spas are constantly evolving and improving. If you're looking for the newest innovations than look some of these key features. There are Worldwide Spa Remotes that allow you to control your Spa's settings anywhere via your Smartphone, tablet, or smart device. There are new innovative lit waterfall tables that can be placed in the center of your Spa for an added useful feature. Keep an eye out for the stunning Infinity Edge Hot Tubs and Swim Spas because they are the latest innovative addition to Spas. The vanishing edge allows you to get the most out of your view without anything obstructing it.



# HOW TO CHOOSE A SPA

Choosing the right Spa can be difficult, but if the Hot Tub or Swim Spa has all the right key elements as listed above the next step is focusing on personal factors. Consider the cost, size/shape/style, options/features, research online and get help from a professional dealer.

## CONSIDER COST

Everyone has a different budget and when it comes to Spas they all have a different price tag. Choose a budget you're comfortable with and remember there are lots of unique Spa lines with different price ranges for every buyer's budget. Don't forget to consider the costs of operating the Hot Tub or Swim Spa once it's been installed too. Look for Hot Tubs that show good value quality level compared to price.



## CONSIDER SIZE, SHAPE & STYLE

In order to choose the perfect Hot Tub or Swim Spa for yourself you will need to consider the size and shape of the Spa you want in accordance to the location it would be installed. The style of the Spa is a personal choice but consider if you're looking for a simple layout, a more luxurious design, or an infinity edge.

## CONSIDER OPTIONS & FEATURES

With so many different options and features available for Hot Tubs and Swim Spas it can be hard to choose what ones you want. It's important to sit down and decided which ones are essential for you before purchasing a Spa because once you have it installed it's hard to add features and options. Think about if you want to upgrade the lights, audio, outer finish, cover, etc.

## RESEARCH ONLINE

Do your research online and check out the different Spas and options available so that when you go into a dealership you are prepared. You can find great information online that can help you choose the Hot Tub or Swim Spa that would work best for you.

## GET ASSISTANCE FROM A PROFESSIONAL DEALER

A reliable and professional dealer is the best way to help choose your Hot Tub or Swim Spa because they can make personal recommendation based off of what you tell them. They have lots of Spa knowledge and are specialized in the field so they can assist you with choosing the perfect Spa.



## WHERE TO BUY A SPA

Once you are ready to go into the dealership and are considering purchasing a Spa you have to decide where to go. Find a reputable dealer that gives great service and offers high quality products. Visit their showroom or store to see the Spas in person and talk to a locally trusted professional dealer. Use the dealer locators online to find the ones that are closest to you.

## INDUSTRY TERMINOLOGY

Walking into a Hot Tub or Swim Spa dealership can be intimidating, that's why it's important to know so industry terminology beforehand. If you are prepared for some of the terms they may use then you will be able to fully understand everything behind what they are trying to sell you.

<b>Acrylic</b> A durable synthetic material that most Spa shells are made out of.	<b>Bather Load</b> The number of people using a Spa in a 24 hour period.
<b>Bromine</b> A chemical used as a disinfectant to destroy bacteria that is often used in Spas.	<b>Cabinet</b> The exterior surface of the Spa that can be made out of many different materials.
<b>Chlorine</b> A chemical that is used as a disinfectant in Spas to kill bacteria.	<b>Circuit Board</b> The electronic brains for the Spa that connects to all electrical components.
<b>Circuit Breaker</b> A switch that allows you to manually override an electrical circuit. It automatically breaks the circuit when it detects harmful fluctuations in the electrical current.	<b>Circulation Pump</b> A pump that pulls water from the Spa and pushes it through filters before returning it into the Spa.
<b>Control Panel</b> This is where you can adjust your Spa's settings such as temperature, jets and lighting.	<b>Cover</b> The cover goes over your Spa to help retain heat and keep debris out of the water.
<b>Cover Lifter</b> This assists with lifting the cover off so you don't have to drag and pull your Spa cover off.	<b>Deafoamer</b> A chemical that is used to reduce or eliminate foaming of the Spa water.

<p><b>Diverter Valve</b> An adjustable valve that controls the flow of water from your Spa jets.</p>	<p><b>Filter</b> A device that removes impurities and undissolved particles from the Spa water.</p>
<p><b>Filter Cartridge</b> A Spa filter that is used to trap debris and dirt before they reach the Spa water.</p>	<p><b>Filtration Rate</b> The rate at which Spa water is pumped through a filter and is measured in gallons per minute.</p>
<p><b>Flow Rate</b> The amount of water that flows past a designated point during a specific period of time and is measured in gallons per minute.</p>	<p><b>GFCI</b> Ground-Fault Circuit Interrupters are intended to protect people and it interrupts the electrical circuit when it detects the presence of excess electrical current going to the ground.</p>
<p><b>Heater Elements</b> Components inside the heater housing that create and transfer heat to the water.</p>	<p><b>HP</b> Stands for horsepower and is a measurement unit for power of a mechanical device.</p>
<p><b>Hydro Massage</b> A massage that is given from pressurized water and air.</p>	<p><b>Hydrotherapy</b> The use of water to relieve discomfort and promote physical well-being.</p>
<p><b>Hydrotherapy Jets</b> Jets that use air and water to create a high-velocity stream which stimulates the body.</p>	<p><b>Impeller</b> The rotating part of the pump that moves the water in a Spa around.</p>
<p><b>Insulation</b> The inner layer of the Spa shell that contains insulating material to retain heat.</p>	<p><b>Jet Pump</b> This is used to provide thrust to Spa jets.</p>
<p><b>Sanitizer</b> A product that is used to kill bacteria in Spa water such as chlorine, bromine, and biguanide.</p>	<p><b>Shell</b> The interior surface of a Spa that's generally made out of Acrylic material.</p>
<p><b>Shock</b> When you bring the Spa sanitizer level up high enough to achieve water purification and break down the contaminants.</p>	<p><b>Seating Capacity</b> The total number of designated seats in a Spa.</p>
<p><b>Skimmer</b> Removes large debris from the water's surface before it reaches the filter so it doesn't get clogged.</p>	<p><b>Spa Pack</b> An integrated unit consisting of electronic or mechanical controls for a Spa.</p>
<p><b>Suction Outlet</b> The fitting where the water is drawn from the Spa.</p>	<p><b>Test Kit</b> A set of chemical solutions and color references for testing pH, total alkalinity and sanitizer levels in the Spa water.</p>
<p><b>Test Strips</b> Paper strips used to measure the Spa Water's pH and other chemical balances.</p>	<p><b>Topside Controls</b> Buttons used to control a Spa's pump, jets, heater and other features.</p>
<p><b>Venturi</b> A tube that increases the velocity of flow of a fluid and a corresponding decrease in fluid pressure. Used to introduce air into jet features and pull ozone from ozonators in Spas.</p>	<p><b>Weir</b> A part of a Spa skimmer that automatically adjust to the water level.</p>

# SPA FUN FACTS

Hot Tubs are great for relaxing and having fun but they've been around for longer than you might have thought and were used in many different forms. Over the years many studies have been done about Spas and lots different fun facts have been found.

- 1) Japanese Macaques (Snow Monkeys) bathe in hot springs in Japan in the winter months for up to five hours a day. They seem to love the health and social benefits of Spas just like humans do.
- 2) Centuries ago, when people didn't have access to hot springs they would use hot stones to heat up public and private baths.
- 3) Studies show that 15 minutes in a Spa per day for 6 days straight can result in an 11 percent drop in the stress hormone cortisone.
- 4) At anytime of the day there are over 17, 000 people sitting in a Hot Tub.
- 5) There is an estimated count of 26 million functioning Hot Tubs worldwide.
- 6) Studies show that using a Hot Tub on a regular basis can help slow aging and wrinkling by up to 20 perfect.



## CONCLUSION

Buying a Hot Tub or Swim Spa can be an intimidating process but hopefully this buyer's guide helped aid in your progress to purchasing a Spa. Knowing why you are buying a Spa can help make sure you pick the right one whether you want it for improved sleep, stress and pain relief, fitness, or just pure enjoyment. Deciding on the perfect timing to purchase a Spa can be challenging but choosing a time that is best for you personally will always be the best decision.

Don't forget to look for shell construction, comfort and design, filtration, energy efficiency, hydrotherapy, options and customizations, warranty and innovations when searching for a Spa. Consider all things from cost to size, shape and style and make sure to research online or get help from a professional dealer when trying to decide on a Spa. Knowing the Spa industry terminology will be useful in the buying process because you will be able to understand everything the dealers are saying better.

Just remember to keep in mind the key factors discussed when you are buying a Hot Tub or Swim Spa.

