



## Guide to buying and preparing for your new hot-tub.

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### You've decided to take the plunge!

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**This winter, after a hard day on the piste, you'll while away your evenings, wine glass at hand, in a steamy, bubbling hot tub. But before you hire an electrician or start moving the flower beds to make room for your luxurious spa, here are some key questions to ask when shopping for a model to suit your needs.**

How big, all seats or would you like a lounge or two, remember that the idea is to move around and try each seat of the spa as each will offer a different massage.

Jets, remember that when it comes to hot-tubs quantity doesn't necessarily mean quality! Don't just count the jets, consider the types of jet and the layout too.

What's the purpose of the spa, is it predominantly for fun and entertaining or for pain relief? Would you like one massage pump or more?

2 or more pumps must be hardwired to your electrical board but some spas with one pump can just be plugged into an appropriate outdoor socket, do you want a plug and play spa?

Insulation is very important in any spa but especially here in the Alps. We are always surprised to see fully foamed insulation in spas. The dealer may tell you that there could never be a leak but this simply isn't true. It's a bit like buying a car with the bonnet welded shut and if you do have a leak the water will soak into the foam making it wet and heavy, costing you a fortune to heat. It is also a far cheaper way to support the structure of the spa, steer clear!



Look for:

- A heat-lock system which is economical to run.
- A strong filtration system.
- A thick fibreglass shell with a good warranty.
- A thick cover suitable for snow fall.
- American balboa electronic systems, they are the very best, most reliable and simple to use.
- A dealer with an established business who offers a good warranty, after sales service and whose existing customers are willing to show and recommend their spas

Ask:

- How soon the spa can be delivered and who you contact for support, before, during and after delivery.
- About the warranty on the spa and its components.
- The total price including tax, cover, delivery, installation and accessories.

Be aware some dealers only give the price of the spa itself. This is misleading and once they have added their price for everything you need it can end up costing you thousands more than you bargained for.

Certain companies deliver kerbside only, make sure that your dealer will deliver your spa and place it exactly where you want it unless you are happy to do it yourself.

## PREPARING FOR YOUR NEW HOTTUB

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What could possibly be better than climbing into steaming hot water at the end of the day and gazing over your garden while your cares soak away?

Before you peel those clothes off, however, you'll need to make several decisions about your hot tub.

Decide where to place the hot tub. Take privacy, accessibility and aesthetics into consideration. Don't put the tub under overhanging trees or bushes that drop a lot of leaves.



### SPA BASES

On average a spa filled with water and holding 6 people will weigh around 2.5 tons so it is very important to sit the spa on a solid base. We recommend concrete, slabs or decking. In some circumstances compacted stones are OK as long as the ground underneath is solid.

Don't be tempted to place your spa on soil, grass or any other type of sinkable surface as the spa will sink over time and could cause permanent damage to the spa shell which will not be covered under warranty.

Concrete slabs laid in sand and cement is fine as is a solid timber deck that has feet set in concrete. A concrete base will need to be no less than 10cm thick and will need a mesh of steel inserted into it, a bit like a sandwich filling. There is another product available called fibre glass that is sprinkled into the mix however we still recommend a steel mesh.

If you want to lay a base much larger than the spa itself that is fine as long as you remember that the bigger the base the thicker the concrete will need to be. If unsure always consult us or a qualified builder to ensure that you get it right first time.



### SPA ELECTRICS

All of our spas are powered by domestic electricity and there are **strict rules** that you must adhere to in order to both comply with French regulations and to protect your selves from electric shock.

**A properly wired spa will never give you any electrical trouble however a poorly wired spa can be potentially fatal.**

Always consult a qualified electrician to take care of your wiring and never allow an unqualified person to meddle with your power. It might save you some money short term but future issues may be costly.

We can advise you on any aspect of spa wiring and we can also supply certain parts such as trip switches and outside switches for the spa.



First of all you must have a safety switch installed in your house, this is called an inter differential and has a safety cut out of 30 milliamps, very sensitive and will protect you and your property.

After this you will need a trip switch for the spa. The size of this depends on the power that you have in your house which will be mono or 3 phase. Once you have ascertained the supply we can advise you on the most suitable trip switch.

We are always happy to advise your own electrician directly so they install the power properly and as we would like it done.

Outside in the garden you will need a switch so you can turn the spa on and off without having to go inside, this would be installed no closer than 2m from the spa, it is however an outside switch and fully waterproof.

The cable should always be copper and rigid not supple and it should lay in a protective conduit. As always an earth is required and if you have soft ground a spike is fine. If your ground is solid, i.e. stone, then you can use an earth plate, this lays under a thin layer of earth and is as effective as a spike.

We are always available to advise you on the best base and electrics for your specific project so if you have a question please ask.