

HOT TUB

BUYER'S GUIDE

From the experts at





TAKE THE FIRST STEP TOWARD OWNING A SPA

A hot tub is more than a home improvement product — it's a self-improvement product. A soothing retreat that's part of your home, an intimate oasis that you share with family and friends. Most importantly, a spa serves as a tangible investment in your mental health, physical health, relationships and overall happiness. A place where you can unwind and truly feel your very best.

Shopping or browsing for a hot tub should be fun. But before you purchase the first hot tub you find, take a moment to find out what you should consider before you even start your search and learn practical tips that will help you find your perfect spa.

BUYER'S GUIDE

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Ask yourself the following questions before you start searching for your spa. Use the space indicated to take notes if desired.

Spas can range dramatically in price depending on the model, size and features. You'll want to determine which features are most important to you as you narrow down your options to determine your target price.

WATER CARE

Less time for maintenance means more time to relax in your spa. Though all spas require some simple chemical maintenance, such as testing the water’s pH, the process should be easy and stress-free for you. When looking at a hot tub you’re interested in, ask a sales associate to explain your water care options.

THE THREE MOST COMMON WAYS TO MAINTAIN SPA WATER ARE:

- 1. *Traditional Chlorine* – This popular type of spa water sanitation uses a chlorine formula especially formulated for hot tubs to cleanse impurities from the water.
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- 2. *Ozone System* – Known by many different names depending on the brand, these systems reduce the need for chlorine by generating a high concentration of ozone that thoroughly cleans spa water on contact.
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- 3. *Salt Water Sanitation* – Salt water sanitizing systems automatically generate chlorine sanitizer from salt added to the water. With these systems, you’ll need to add fewer bottled products to the water and enjoy better water quality with less maintenance — without the harsh side effects of traditional water care.

HOT SPRING TIPS

CHOOSE THE ACE® SALT WATER SYSTEM

With over 30 years of experience leading the industry in innovative, sustainable hot tub design, Hot Spring Spas' patented ACE system is one of the easiest-to-use sanitizing systems on the market. It uses a patented diamond electrode to break down water molecules and create a powerful oxidizer called Active Oxygen, in addition to the Chlorine Sanitizers.

We purchased the ACE salt water system and it is so easy to maintain and keep the water clean. There is no skin or eye irritation and the water is sparkling clean.

Hot Spring Owner, Pennsylvania

FEATURES THAT MATTER

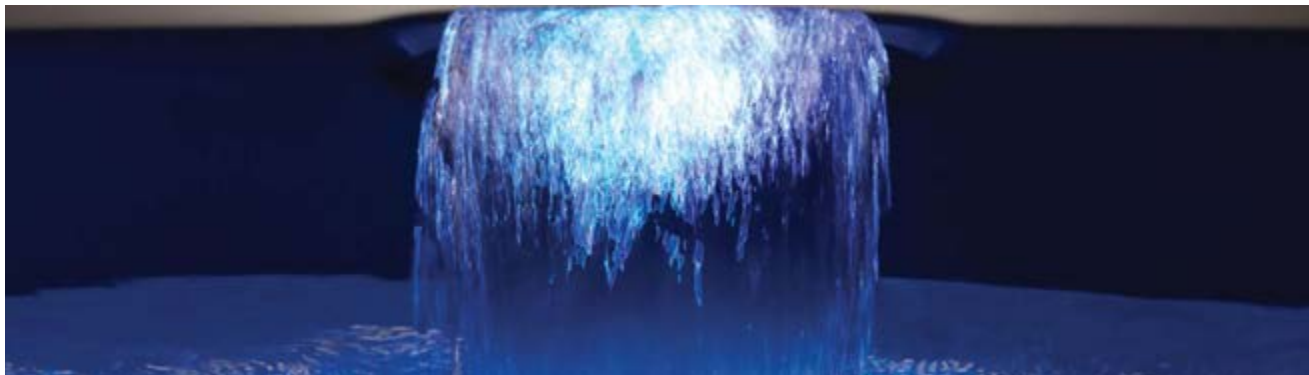
You're looking for a spa that's cost efficient, clean and easy to use — but what about the details that make it yours? With most models, you can choose the color of the shell in the tub, cabinet and cover. You can also customize your spa experience by adding entertainment systems and other accessories. Before you buy, consider what features are most important to you when making your hot tub dream a reality.

YOUR PERFECT MASSAGE



Above ground hot tubs and spas generally feature anywhere from 20 to 100 jets, all targeted to certain muscle groups to help you emerge from your hot tub feeling your best. When you're looking at models, look for powerful, patented jets that will provide the type of massage you need in the areas where you need it most. Also look for targeted jet groups. Having more jets doesn't always mean you'll have the best spa. Often, having fewer jets in targeted groups will conserve energy and give a better, more focused massage.

WATER FEATURES & LIGHTS



Customized multi-color lighting and soothing water features can enhance any relaxing spa experience, adding ambience to your backyard. Think about how you will use your spa, and decide how important these features will be to you. Find out if the spa you are considering, allows you to customize these features - so that you can adjust the lighting and water feature based on your mood.

IN-SPA ENTERTAINMENT



From relaxing to the soothing sounds of a favorite song to enjoying the best seat in the house for your favorite TV show, wireless and Bluetooth® technology make it easy to connect your favorite shows or songs to your hot tub with monitor and audio systems. If this is what you're looking for, communicate it to a sales associate or dealer while browsing.

HOT SPRING TIPS

SEE INNOVATION AT WORK

For over 30 years, Hot Spring Spas engineered and manufactured spas that pushed the envelope of innovation. See how Hot Spring products feature cutting edge jets, offer in-spa entertainment systems, lights and water features.

For innovative spas with in-spa entertainment options, view the Hot Spring Highlife® Collection at <https://continentalpoolandspa.net/hot-tubs/hot-spring/highlife/>. For spas featuring lights, water features and breathtaking contemporary style, view the Hot Spring Limelight® collection at <https://continentalpoolandspa.net/hot-tubs/hot-spring/limelight/>.

SPA FILTRATION

Crystal clear water is essential to the entire spa experience. Most spa filters work by capturing and removing impurities and debris in the water, but they vary by size depending on the brand and size of the tub. Some spas feature a dedicated 24-hour circulation pump, that circulates the water quietly, and efficiently without requiring use of the jet pumps. If energy efficiency and quiet operation are important to you, choose a spa with a dedicated circulation pump.

When browsing spas, look closely at a spa’s filtrations system — keep in mind that filtration systems will vary in shape and size. Also, look for spas with frequent filtration cycles. Water moving through the system constantly keeps it clean and contaminate-free.

WHEN LOOKING AT FILTRATION SYSTEMS:

Make sure the filtration system is easy to access for periodic maintenance.

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Look for filters that are easy-to-remove and change.

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Ask if the filters are disposable or dishwasher-safe.

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Ask how often the spa completes filtration cycles.



OPERATING COST

Because spas require electricity to power the jets, heat and circulate the water, new hot tub owners generally see an increase in their electricity bill after installing their spa. So how much will it cost you to run your hot tub? That depends on the type of spa you buy, ambient temperature in your area, the temperature of the water, frequency of use and the cost of electricity where you live, but it can range from as little as a few dollars per month to much more. It's important that you understand how the hot tub you choose is designed to keep operating costs low.

To help minimize these costs, many spa manufacturers produce more energy-efficient hot tubs than ever before.

WHEN YOU'RE SEARCHING FOR A SPA, LOOK FOR ENERGY-EFFICIENT FEATURES LIKE:

- High-density, complete insulation in the entire spa
- A high-density spa cover that seals completely
- A continuous, energy-efficient water circulation pump
- Jets and controls designed for the realities of use
- Heaters that maximize heat-to-water transfer

HOT SPRING TIPS

MONTHLY ENERGY COST CALCULATOR

At hotspring.com/hot-tub-installation-planning-tools/energy-efficient-hot-tubs-energy-costs you can use Hot Spring's unique energy calculator to determine a rough estimate of what a hot tub would cost you per month based on the size of the tub, mean ambient temperature and your local rate per kilowatt hour.

Leading the industry in energy efficient design, Hot Spring offers EnergySmart® features that keep operating costs low.

FINDING A BRAND

With hundreds of hot tub and models available from a variety of companies, it's easy to feel overwhelmed when beginning to search for the right hot tub. So instead of trying to select a model right off the bat, narrow down your search to a brand you trust first, then select a model. [To find a spa brand that you like, do the following:](#)

LOOK FOR A COMPANY WITH A RECORD OF SUCCESS

When you begin researching spa brands, look at the company's history. While some brands come and go with products that may not last, the most successful hot tub sellers offer decades of reliable products, innovative ideas and long-lasting warranties for their products.

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READ CUSTOMER REVIEWS

Look for customer reviews about spa brands online and on a brand's specific website. You want to select a manufacturer with a commitment to transparency and accountability for the product they build. When a brand openly engages, listens and responds to customer feedback, you can feel more assured that you will receive quality support after you buy.

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FIND A TRUSTED LOCAL DEALER

Whom you purchase your spa from can play a major role in the process. Find a local dealer that will help you find a hot tub that fits *your* needs and answer any questions you have about spas. Look for an established dealer that has an excellent track record as well as knowledgeable sales team, experienced service department and a friendly staff who help their customers before, during and after their hot tub purchase.

Just a note — try a test soak!

Continental Pool & Spa offers test soaks -- Let your salesman know you would like to try out one of the hot tubs and they will work with you to set up an appointment.

When you need to relax, putting the stress of the day behind you, do it in a spa. There is no doubt that you get what you pay for. The quality and attention to detail reminds me of a fine automobile.

Hot Spring Vista® Owner

HOT SPRING TIPS

READ CUSTOMER REVIEWS

Customer reviews give you valuable first-person insights about hot tub ownership. Looking for customer reviews? Start by seeing what Hot Spring Spas customers are saying at hotspring.com/hot-spring-story/product-reviews.

SELECTING A MODEL

After researching spas online and browsing them in-person, you’re almost ready to unwind in your own. Maybe you’ve even tried a test soak and experienced a comfortable spa first hand. Hopefully, a few models stood out to you.

Once you’ve narrowed down your choices to a single brand or two, answer the following questions and think about a hot tub in terms of what matters to you. Use your answers to help you eventually select the specific spa model that’s right for you.

WHAT SIZE HOT TUB DO I WANT OR NEED?

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Do I plan to use the hot tub for personal relaxation or entertaining?

On average, how many people will be using my hot tub?

Where can I place my hot tub outside to make it easily accessible?

Notes

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Do I want a chlorine, salt water or ozone water care system for my spa?

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How much will owning a hot tub cost me monthly?

BROWSE HOT SPRING MODELS

As the world's best-selling hot tub brand, Hot Spring Spas offers a wide variety of spas designed to seat anywhere from 2 to 8 people. Get started and browse a few of these spas at <https://continentalpoolandspa.net/hot-tubs/hot-spring/>.

HOW TO AVOID COMMON HOT TUB BUYING MISTAKES

1. NOT ACCOUNTING FOR SIZE AND SPACE

Be sure to take measurements of the space you would like to place your spa, as well as of the path you will use to install it. From a patio to a backyard, taking simple measurements ahead of time will make installation easy when the time comes, giving you more time to enjoy your new spa.

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2. UNDERESTIMATING THE VALUE OF AN ENERGY EFFICIENT SPA

Energy efficient spas will save you money in the long run, keeping your energy bill lower even during cold winter months. Be sure to speak to a sales associate and read reviews about energy efficient models. Talk to your power company about the price of power in your area.

3. NEGLECTING TO MAINTAIN YOUR SPA

Like a car or pool, a hot tub requires regular maintenance to function at its absolute best. Learn everything you can about the simple, quick spa maintenance that you will do yourself, like checking the chemical balance. Also keep up with your dealership for offers, services and support.

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4. AVOID 'DIY' INSTALLATION OF THE TUB ITSELF

Unless you're a trained professional, you probably want to avoid installing your new hot tub yourself. A certified dealer will make sure the plumbing and electric elements of your new spa are installed correctly and functioning optimally, which can save you money in repairs down the road. Additionally, certified dealers are trained to safely lift and move spas.

CONCLUSION

AN INVESTMENT IN YOUR HEALTH & HAPPINESS



At the end of the day, a hot tub is one of the most tangible, rewarding purchases you can make for yourself and your loved ones. Relaxing in a spa is a simple way to rid your body of stress and tension, share a joyous moment with your loved-ones, or to simply take time to soak up the outdoors in the comfort of your backyard. Heat, water and massage tangibly improve your mental health, physical health, relationships and overall happiness — to help you feel your very best.



To learn more about spas, connect with Continental Pool & Spa on continentalpoolandspa.com or facebook.com/cps.1981.