

Hot Tub Site Preparation and Installation Advice

Hot Tub Base

Your hot tub needs a good solid foundation. A hot tub filled with water and people is heavy! The area that your hot tub sits on must be able to support the weight of the tub, the water in it and those who use it. If you are installing your tub on a concrete base it should be at least 3 - 4 inches thick. If you are installing your hot tub on decking then the cross-members supporting the deck should be at least 4 " x 2 " and no more than 18 " apart.

If the hot tub base is inadequate it may shift or settle after the hot tub is in place, causing stress to the shell and possible cracking. Damage caused by inadequate or improper foundation support is not covered by any hot tub warranty.

If you are installing your hot tub indoors, choose flooring that won't be damaged by water and that provides a good grip when wet. The humidity in the hot tub room will obviously increase and to minimise any detrimental effects plenty of ventilation will be necessary. Although not strictly necessary, if you are building a new room for your spa, it is recommended that a floor drain be installed.

If you are thinking of putting your hot tub on an elevated wooden deck or a balcony then it would be advisable to consult a structural engineer to ensure that the structure will support the weight.

Positioning

Some things to consider when positioning your hot tub include the following:

- Is it close to where you are going to get changed? A long chilly walk to the tub might be a bit off-putting!
- Is it safe for young children? Can you see what they are up to?
- Is it overlooked? You might not feel able to relax if you feel conscious of the fact that your neighbours might be watching you!
- Is it under overhanging trees? The last thing you want is lots of greenery decaying in your water!
- Is there a clean path from the changing area to the tub? Grass and debris from the users' feet will get transferred into the water if not.
- Is it sheltered from the wind?
- Is there a pleasant view?
- Is there a slope on the base? Even a slight slope will mean that one side of your tub will have deeper water in it than the other.
- Is there adequate space for a cover lifter and for steps?

It is a good idea to outline the hot tub's proposed location using a garden hose or rope. This will help you visualise your plan for the area.

Plan to locate the equipment compartment of your hot tub, the area which houses all of the electrical components, in a place where water will drain away from it. Allowing water into the equipment compartment can damage the electronics.

Access to the Site

If we are delivering and installing your hot tub we will usually come out to your house to perform a site survey first. But if you are thinking of doing your own installation or if you are unsure whether your chosen model will fit please check the dimensions of your hot tub and compare them to the width of any gates and paths along the delivery route between the road and the installation site. It may be necessary for you to remove a gate or partially remove a fence in order to provide an unobstructed passageway.

If the delivery route will require a 90 degree turn, don't forget to check the measurements at the turn to ensure the hot tub will fit. Also, look for any protruding utility meters, low roof eaves, overhanging trees or gutters etc that might cause an obstruction.

Stairs can cause a problem, depending on the weight of the tub.

In some circumstances it might be necessary to hire a crane for the installation. This could be to avoid damage to the tub or to your property, or simply because there is no other way to get the tub into position. If you think this might be necessary don't panic. Hire of a crane is not as expensive as you might think and there is usually a choice of local firms able to give you a quotation.

Water Supply

There must be a non-softened water supply and hosepipe within reach in order to fill the tub.

An accessible drain in which to direct the water when emptying the tub is useful, but it isn't 100% necessary because hot tub water can usually be drained safely over grass.

Electrical Supply

Regardless of who installs your hot tub, it will be your responsibility to arrange provision of an appropriate electrical supply.

Depending on the model chosen, the power requirements are likely to be between 13 amp and 40 amp, single phase. A qualified electrician must install the power supply, which must be wired through a Residual Current Device (RCD) or circuit breaker, at least 2 metres away from the hot tub. All outside cable should be armoured.

Hot tubs rated at 13 amps may be connected via a standard, switchable, waterproof 3 pin socket. Hot tubs rated over 13 amps will need to be wired directly into a waterproof (IP55 or above) switchable junction box. A rotary isolator switch will be required so that the tub can be quickly disconnected from the mains supply if necessary.

If we are installing your hot tub, we usually ask for your electrician to leave a coil of armoured cable with a length equal to the distance from the isolator to the centre of the tub plus 3 metres.

Safety Considerations

Do not place your hot tub within 3 metres of overhead power lines.

Make sure your hot tub is positioned so that access to the equipment compartment is not blocked.

Post Delivery

Remember to carefully read the Owner's Manual that accompanies your spa, and to complete the warranty registration within the time stated after delivery.

In order to safely use your new hot tub you must keep the water adequately sanitised at all times. Your spa will be supplied with a comprehensive ecoONE Starter Kit containing enough product to keep your spa water clean and safe for at least 3 months. Please read the instructions carefully and contact us if you need any further water care advice.

