

The Ultimate Hot Tub Spa Buyer's Guide



By All-American Recreation



Foreword

From the idyllic natural springs

of northern Europe to the luxury spas of southern Asian, everyone loves soaking in a hot tub.

You don't have to travel that far for a relaxing time in a hot tub (although maybe that's not a bad idea!) Installing a hot tub of your own is a pain-free process and there's never a wrong time to do it.

Let's take down the barrier in the buying process by answering some commonly asked questions. Then we'll walk through the steps to getting a hot tub of your own set up in your backyard. (If you're interested in experiencing Iceland's Blue Lagoon, though, you'll have to ask a travel agent...)

-Jerry Schiltz
All-American Recreation

Frequently Asked Questions

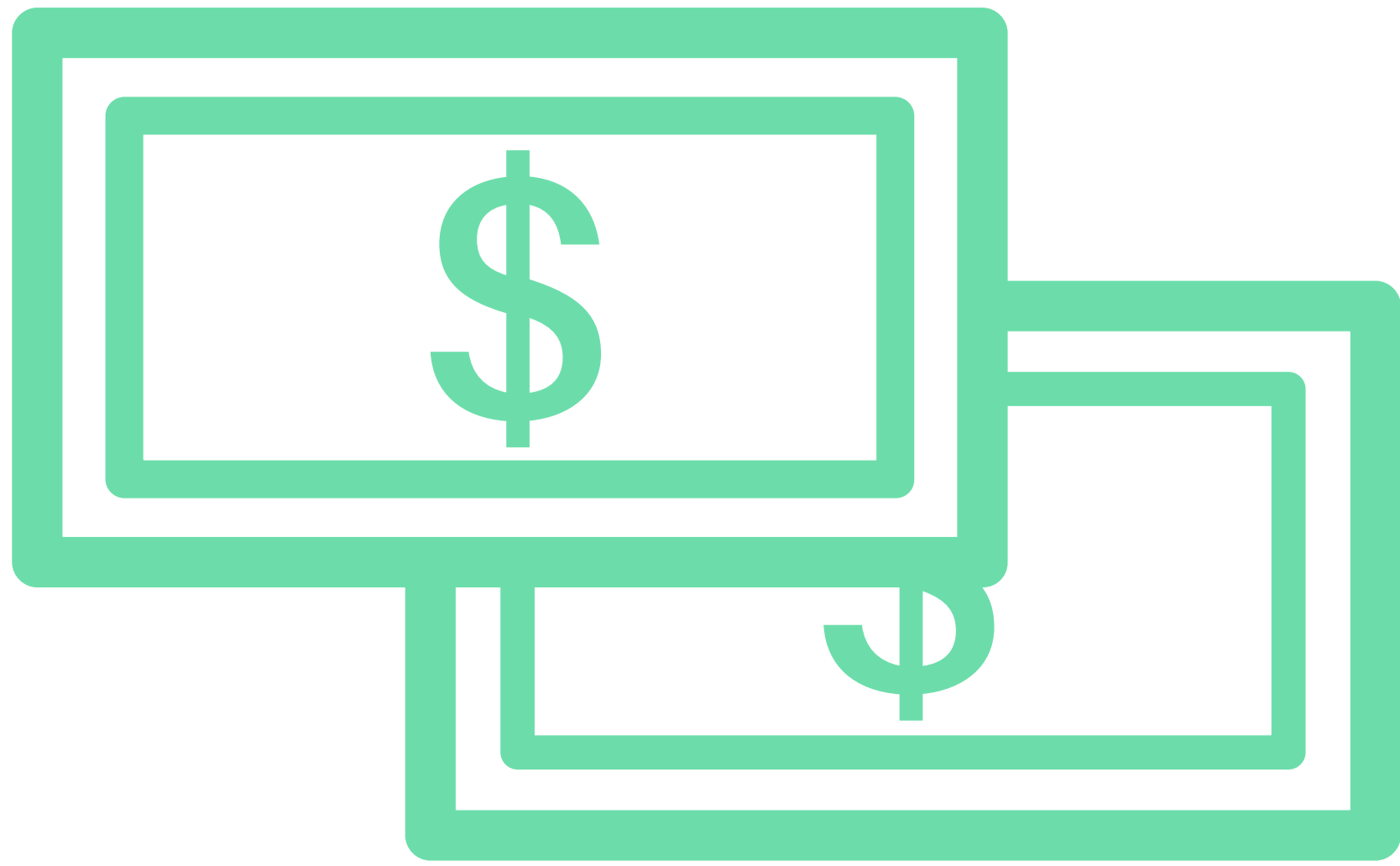


What do I need if I want to buy a hot tub?

Hot tubs can be installed inside or outside a building. There are different factors to consider if you'd like your hot tub inside your home (for example, proper ventilation). But in either case, you will most likely need a dedicated electric circuit and a garden hose. Our tubs are either 110v or 230v, and can be filled by a hose without the need for any special plumbing installation.

What is a chemical-free spa?

All spas will require some chemicals to balance the pH and kill bacteria. Ozone is the most effective disinfection method available for a spa and reduces spa chemical use. If you choose to try a "chemical-free" spa solution, make sure it does not void your warranty. For example, corrosion caused by salt generators may not be covered.



Is it safe to purchase online?

The Internet can be a great place to start comparing prices on various spa brands and models. However, be wary of purchasing online. You will not be able to ensure the spa quality for yourself before purchasing.

How do I get a fair price?

If you go offline, ask for written price quotes so you can compare between stores, and to prevent seedy salespeople from changing up prices. As always, be wary of a deal that feels too good to be true. Don't be afraid to walk away from a product you aren't comfortable buying.

What kind of warranty should I have?

When discussing warranty, make sure to think beyond length of coverage. What specific parts are covered? Who will do the repairs? Remember that the factory warranty replacement parts are provided by the spa manufacturer, not the spa dealer. However, warranty service is provided by the spa dealer. Lock down the details before you buy.



What is interest-free financing?

Many people cannot afford to pay for a hot tub outright, so they pay in installments. Some spa dealers offer interest-free financing plans. However, you must read the contract carefully. Oftentimes in order to be able to offer this kind of financing, the price of the hot tub has been increased.



TUFF Spa model from All-American Recreation

Defaulting on interest-free financing can also lead to strict penalties, sometimes up to 20-30% interest rates. Make sure you understand the contract before signing and binding yourself to it.

The Buying Process





Choose A Location

If you have space limitations, they may also limit what model hot tub you're able to purchase. You'll want to decide where you'd like to put your hot tub before getting your heart set on a specific model.

Not only will you need an even surface, you'll want space for installation and maintenance. If your spa is outdoors, you'll also want to consider how much sunlight or shade it will be in, and if you'll need a walkway, exterior lights, or other additions. As stated in the first half of this guide, you will also need access to a dedicated circuit and a water source.

Compare Models

Do you want four seats, or two loungers?
Twenty-six jets, or twice that many?
Think about how you will use the spa. You
don't want to walk out of the store with a
swim spa when you planned on
something more relaxing!

After the important considerations, look
at customizability. What color do you
want for the shell, cabinet, and
cover? What accessories are included and
what will you need to purchase
separately?





It's finally time to buy!

Make Your Purchase

Once you've found a space and chosen the right model, you can figure out the payment method that works for you. If you're not paying up front, choose your financing method. Remember to do your research to make sure you aren't getting locked into punishing contracts.

Spa Care

Filling your hot tub and heating it up are the easy parts. You also have to perform maintenance to keep your spa clean. Luckily, keeping your spa water healthy and your tub in good shape is a matter of staying on top of small tasks, so you don't have to deal with a big problem later.

When using your spa, take precautions to keep dirt, bacteria, and other contaminants out of the water. Your spa cover will do a lot of that work for you, so treat it well and clean it regularly. You should also clean yourself off before getting into the hot tub, or you'll carry contaminants into the water with you.

In general, spa water pH and sanitizer should be tested daily and water should be treated weekly with chlorine shock. Your specific maintenance routine will depend on your hot tub use and the type of water.

Less frequently, you will have to clean your tub's filters. Spa water will also have to be drained completely and refilled every three to four months. Lastly, keep an eye on your tub shell, cabinet, and inner workings. Spotting a leak early will save you a lot of money in the long run.





**In
conclusion**

Who doesn't dream

of bringing the relaxing feeling of a spa into their backyard? Now you know the basics of buying a hot tub. But we know this guide can't answer all your questions. That's why we're always available to help.

All-American Recreation has sold and serviced hot tub spas since 1972. With hundreds of satisfied customers, it's no surprise we have an A+ rating with the Better Business Bureau.

Come in to our St. Paul or Bloomington location today to see our selection for yourself. Or visit us at AllAmericanRec.com.

We look forward to seeing you!

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