

First Time Spa Buyers Most Frequently Asked Questions

## Hot Tub Buyers Guide

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Southwest  SPAS & POOLS

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Few things in life are as exciting as buying your very own spa. After all, having a relaxing, invigorating retreat right outside the backdoor is a luxury spa owners know well. Now that you've made the decision to purchase, you may have a few questions about choosing the perfect spa and what to expect in terms of maintenance and upkeep.

Before running out and buying the first spa you see, take some time to read through some of the most frequently asked questions by first time spa buyers and arm yourself with some good old fashioned knowledge. Understanding what's available, how to find the best deal and what to prepare for is information you'll be glad to have when you set out to buy your spa. Grab a chair, get comfortable and make your spa purchase experience easy and stress free.

### How Large a Spa Do I Need?

This is a question many folks seem to ignore simply because they think bigger is better. With a spa, this is not always the case. Choosing the right size spa will make your experience better and may end up saving you money. Think about how you plan on using your spa. If you live alone or with a spouse, you may not need room for six.



On the other hand, if you plan on entertaining or anticipate family members coming over frequently, you may want to consider looking into a larger model with seating for six or more. Bench seats are available in many larger models, giving you the option of having even more than six occupy the spa at the same time.

Remember, anticipating company is only part of the process of choosing the right size spa. You'll also need to measure the available space. If you have limited room, it's critical you measure accurately because there are other variables to consider

besides the circumference of the spa. Sometime in the future, you may need room to access the technical equipment in order to update, change or fix something.

Besides, you don't want to buy a spa so large that it becomes uncomfortable to enter and exit the water. Leave plenty of room in the designated areas for climbing in and out and towelng off.

**Bottom line?** Be realistic when it comes to choosing the size of your spa. Remember, it's not always best to go bigger and smaller may be more appropriate for space, comfort and convenience.

## How Important are the Number of Jets and the Size of the Pumps?

Most people incorrectly assume the more jets a spa has, the better the spa- an easy mistake to make. But before you get caught up in adding up the jets in your head, here's the truth. Jets massage your muscles. The more jets you try to squeeze into a spa, the smaller they have to be to fit and the less powerful they are when working your tired, stiff muscles.



Do you really think more tiny jets pulsing at your skin would feel better than a few strategically placed powerful jets that ease neck and lower back pain? Most people would agree, it's really about jet placement and not how many jets are in the spa that matters most. Once you understand the types of jets available and what they are designed to do, it makes it much easier to choose the most appropriate spa.

Besides, depending on how you plan on using your spa, you may decide more jets will distract from the interaction and conversation a relaxing spa invites.

But what about the pumps? Is it true that you have to have a huge pump to get the power you need to efficiently run your spa? Another myth, because what really

matters here is how effectively and efficiently the jets, pumps, and plumbing work together.

It has to be looked at as an entire system versus the individual parts. High quality spas concentrate more on internal efficiency rather than outside appearances when it comes to the size or pumps or the number of jets.

**Bottom line?** Optimized Spa plumbing and jets are more important than the actual size of the pumps. And jet placement and the specific types of jets in the spa are more important than the number of jets you have.

## How Easy are Spas to Maintain?

This is a question that there really isn't one exact answer too, but most spa owners will agree, the time spent maintaining a spa is well worth the effort for the relaxing, rejuvenating and refreshing soak that follows. In most cases, proper spa maintenance can be achieved in just a few minutes every week. And with the right materials, you'll most likely find that it's even easier than it sounds.

Basic maintenance involves testing your water using a "test strip" prior to use and adding chemicals as needed once or twice a week, draining and refilling your spa every few months to keep the water clean and fresh, cleaning the filter and keeping dirt and debris off the cover. There really isn't much more to it than that and with a little practice, these activities become pretty simple.



The trick to keeping maintenance low and your spa looking great is to make certain you have a water management system in place that cleans the water 24 hours a day 7 days a week. The cleaner the water, the less your filtration system has to work and the cleaner your spa stays.

**Bottom Line?** Spa maintenance is a required part of keeping your spa looking and running great. Take the time to invest in the proper water management system and follow a consistent schedule with testing to always have a crystal clear, perfect, glimmering spa.



## How Do I Know Which Dealer to Buy From?

Choosing the right spa dealership can be a bit confusing. In most areas, there are generally a few different choices, leaving you scratching your head wondering what the difference between them might be. Luckily, there are a few strategies for helping you choose a reliable, quality dealer, ensuring you get the best product for your money.



One of the first things to look for in a dealership is business longevity. The longer they have been around, the better. A good rule of thumb is to seek out dealers who have been selling spas for at least 25 years.

Business longevity is a short cut you can use to evaluate the credibility, integrity and staying power of a dealership. The logic is this- if a dealer has been able to stand the test of time, which often includes changes in the economy, trends, etc., it's a pretty safe bet they are reliable. Most dishonest businesses never see years 10 or more.

Another trick for picking the right dealer is to look at the products they sell. If they've been selling the same brand for at least ten years, you can assume they're comfortable with the product and have enough experience to offer skilled knowledge both before you buy and after.



Remember, your relationship with your dealer will be very important in the years to come as you require service and maintenance help. Knowing your dealer is an expert and well informed about his product gives you peace of mind that when you need answers, you'll get them.

**Bottom Line?** Look for dealers who have established a reputation in the community and have been in business for several years- 25 or more is best. Also, look for dealers who have been selling the same brand for at least 10 years or more and are experienced with the product.

## How Important is it to Buy a Brand Name Hot Tub? Aren't All Spas the Same?

As is true with most large purchases, there is a huge difference between different brands of spas. Think about an automobile. You can get two cars, each a different make and model. They have the same four wheels, interior, trunk space and color, but you can bet there are major quality differences in how each performs. The same is true with a spa. And while it is possible to get a good deal, you certainly get what you pay for.

Brand name products are brand names for a reason. In most cases, they've been a popular choice for several years by a majority of consumers and continue to offer what people expect. Products that over deliver earn the trust of buyers, which translates into good feedback and a recognizable name.



Hot tub brands that have earned name recognition have done so because they consistently do what they say, have continually pleased the consumer and are now a trusted, valued name. Do you have to buy a brand name spa? No, not at all. But if you are looking for security in quality, craftsmanship and performance, you're more likely to be satisfied with a well-known brand.

Brand name spas distinguish themselves from other manufacturers by winning awards for performance, receiving recognition for innovative design and are recognized as leaders in the hot tub and pool industry.

**Bottom Line?** Stay with the brand names and stay with quality you can trust.

## Do I Have to Do Anything Special to Prepare My Backyard?

Preparing your space ahead of time will save you time, energy and money. And while there really isn't a lot to do beforehand, the time to think about it is not when your spa is on its way off the truck. Basically, there are three things to do- choose your location, prepare the ground and clear the surroundings.

### *Location*

Choosing the location sounds like an easy task, but be careful. Once your spa is set in place, it's not easy to move around. If you're the type who likes to rearrange the furniture several times before you commit, you'd better start planning. Take into consideration a few things when choosing the perfect location. Think about the privacy you have now and how it might change with the seasons.



The overhang creates a nice private retreat in the summer, but how about when the winter comes and the leaves fall, will the spa still be secluded? Also, think about the convenience of getting in and out of the spa and how long a walk it is to the back door. A pleasant trip down a flowery path now may become an icy trek mid-winter.

### *Ground*

If you're planning on placing your new spa on a deck, that's great, but you still have to take a few minutes to make certain your space has adequate drainage and is sturdy enough to withstand the weight of your new investment. If you plan on using the spa in the backyard, you'll need to find a level space and choose a foundation. Concrete, gravel even paved stone is fine, just make sure to allow for adequate draining. For an easy alternative, you may want to consider a prefabricated spa pad which is less complex and can be installed relatively quickly.



### *Surroundings*

Remember to cut down any obstacles that might get in the way of delivery like overhanging tree limbs or broken branches. You may need to remove part of a gate or doorway to ensure your new spa fits into the backyard. Look for objects that might make delivery difficult like air conditioning units, awnings or protruding gas meters. Try to prepare a path that is clear, easy to navigate and free of steps.

***Bottom Line?*** Don't overlook the importance of spending a little time choosing the right location for your spa, preparing the ground and clearing the surrounding area for easy delivery.

## Conclusion

Making the investment in a new spa is an exciting, rewarding experience that is sure to bring you, your friends and your family years of fun and relaxation. Whether you plan on using it for entertainment, relaxation or to get healthy, taking the time to learn a little about what it is you're looking for in a spa and where to find it will ensure you get the most value for your money.



After all, your spa will most likely be a part of your family for many years- you want to make sure you buy the right one. Once you've decided on the perfect spa, understanding how to prepare your yard or deck ahead of time and what to expect in terms of weekly maintenance will help you plan accordingly. Remember, the more you know now, the more informed you're decisions will be later.



## About Us

Southwest   
SPAS & POOLS

Since it was founded, Southwest Spas and Pools has been a family owned and operated business. Our company began its establishment as a patio, pool, and spa supply company.

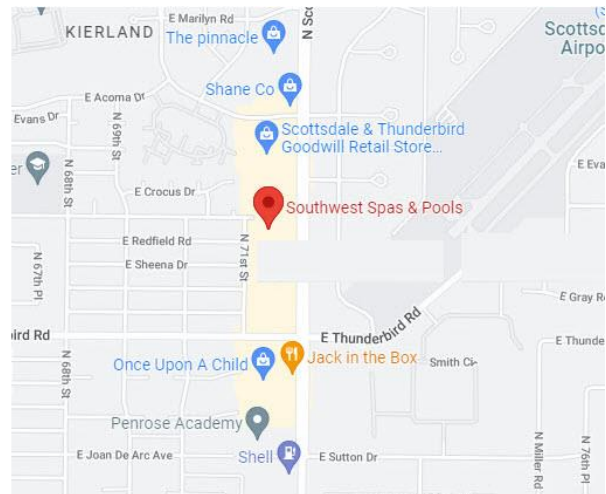
To help people who need family time, therapy, and stress relief we have transitioned into working with only spas. We proudly offer the highest quality spa line in the industry and excellent customer service.

Southwest Spas and Pools has elite status with Dimension 1 Spas and has won several “Dealer of the Year” awards for both service and sales. We continue to be family owned and operated and much of our business comes from referrals.

The lives of thousands have been changed by our state-of-the-art product that relieves pain and stress and brings friends and family together. We look forward to making you part of our expanding family.



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