

What You ? Don't Know ? Can Hurt You.

The worst thing that can happen to you as a hot tub shopper is to purchase a hot tub for thousands of dollars and when it arrives at home and you discover a bunch of unhappy surprises. You need to learn as much as you can about hot tubs so that your selection will result in satisfaction and a lot of happy moments. Unfortunately, hot tubs can be very complex with a dizzying array of options and features. The confusion even multiplies after speaking with a salesperson because each has their different spin on what's good, what's not, what's a must-have, and what's optional. It's possible to walk out of a hot tub store being more confused than when you walked in. The fact is that you need to understand what's good and what's not good BEFORE you walk into a hot tub store so that you can decipher truth from fiction. Too many consumers walk right into a cheap hot tub store and get sold on the first visit. I've always said, "buy in haste, and suffer at your leisure!"

Yes, what you don't know can hurt you.

Buying a hot tub is an important decision. It will most likely be the third most expensive thing you buy after your home and car. You want to make sure that you are informed about your options and understand what questions to ask to get the right hot tub for you and your family. Making the wrong decision will result in disappointment, anger, and possibly a lot of cost to you. This report will help give you the information you need to make a smart, informed, hot tub purchase.

Glossary Of Terms

Horsepower Rating - The amount a hot tub pump delivers while in operation. Two types of horsepower ratings are "continuous operating" and "brake" (also called marketing horsepower). Continuous operating is the amount of horsepower the motor produces while in operation and brake horsepower is the amount of horsepower the motor produces on start-up before dropping to its continuous operating rate. Up-rated Hp is the amount of horsepower given off during the start-up, which lasts only for a couple of minutes. The maximum horse power of any hot tub pump is 4 hp as it is impossible to run anything bigger on a home electrical panel.

GPM - Gallons of water per minute, which is a measurement of the amount of water a hot tub pump can push per minute.

Ozonator - A water care system that neutralizes water contaminants using ozone.

Shell - The structural layer of the hot tub usually made out of a combination of acrylic, resin, and fiberglass.

Jetting - A system in which water surges through small water jets. The jets create different swirling actions that deliver various massaging sensations.

Hydromassage - The water jet action and air together to create different massaging sensations depending on the type of hot tub jetting system.

Filtration - The water cleansing process that takes place when water passes through the hot tub's filter.

Skimmer - Part of the filtration system that sucks in surface water where such as body lotion, hair spray, and body oils float.

Dead Air Hot Space - The hot space between the hot tub shell and the cabinet that is left open and does not contain insulation.

Thermostatic Controls - Electronic controls that maintain the temperature of the hot tub at a pre-set level.

Wet Testing - Testing the hot tub before purchase by physical getting a into demonstration model hot tub that is filled with water.

Plumbing - The fittings and lines (pipes) through which the hot tub water circulates.

Heater Element - The electrical element that provides heat to the hot tub water.

Hot Tub Cover - The removable cover that provides heat insulation and weather protection.

Air Controls - Controls that adjust the amount of air flow to various jets.

Filtration Pump - A small energy efficient pump that moves water through the filters, ozone and heating system.

Brominator - Dispenses the chemical bromine in the hot tub water for purification purposes



The 7 HotTub Buying MISTAKES

And how to avoid them.

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Mistake #1

Focusing on price versus long-term efficiency and satisfaction

When shopping for hot tubs, don't focus so much on the upfront cost, but on the hot tub's total lifetime cost. This forces you to focus on the hot tub's efficiency rather than solely on its sticker price. Depending on the efficiency of the hot tub, the climate you live in, and the level of maintenance received, your operating cost for the hot tub can run you anywhere from 50¢ to \$2 a day.

There are many factors that go into how efficient a hot tub is let's look at a few elements that can make or break your hot tub efficiency.

1. Insulation
2. Hot Tub Cover
3. Pump and Motor
4. Filtration Pump

Mistake #2

Not Investigating the Structural Integrity of the Hot Tub

The hot tub shell and the outer cabinetry are areas of the hot tub that often get overlooked because, to the average person, they all look and act the same. Yes, the hot tub shell and cabinetry both come in different colours and textures, but most shoppers would consider these preference decisions and not anything that makes one hot tub "better" than another. This couldn't be farther from the truth. Just ask anyone who had a hot tub shell crack on them or had their cabinetry start to fade, rot and chip away..

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1. Hot Tub Shell
2. Cabinetry

Mistake #3

Under estimating the amount of required Hot Tub Maintenance

The number one complaint of hot tub owners always circles around maintenance. Don't underestimate the need to maintain your hot tub to keep it looking and functioning properly. However, with some smart hot tub shopping tips you'll be able to dramatically reduce the amount of required maintenance and the associate costs.

1. Chemicals
2. Filtration
3. Draining
4. Exterior

Mistake #4

Not selecting the right therapeutic jet structure

One of the primary reasons for owning a hot tub comes from its hydrotherapeutic benefits. There are 8 major reasons why people buy hot tubs; back pain, neck pain, sports recovery, leg pain, stress relief, insomnia, headache relief and over all body awakening. The shape or type of the jet and the position of the jet determines the type of Hydrotherapy you will receive. You need to get this right because jetting is what hot tubs are all about. If you have upper back pain and the hot tub you buy doesn't have a jet structure that helps you with that particular problem, then there is no use having the hot tub. Also, if the jet structure isn't flexible enough to adapt to the type of massage you want, you'll always receive the same old massage over and over again, make sure you buy a hot tub that has different seats and different massages. Make sure you buy a hot tub that has individually adjustable jets. Many hot tubs allow you to adjust the water pressure to a group of jets, but not each one individually. Being able to adjust the water flow individually allows you to customize your hydrotherapy experience.

1. Wet Testing
2. Water Jets
3. Directional Jets
4. Rotating Jets
5. Waving Jets
6. Air Jets
7. Pulsating Jets
8. Neck Jets
9. Foot Jets
10. Seating
11. Aromatherapy
12. Noise

Mistake #5

Not taking into consideration the are a where you will be placing your hot tub

Do you want a hot tub purchasing nightmare? Go buy a hot tub without considering where you will place it. Then when the installers bring it over to install it in your home you will have your nightmare! You must decide where you are going to put your hot tub before you go shopping. If your hot tub will be placed outside, make sure that it isn't in a low area that may get flooded during a heavy storm. Don't put it in or around any sand. If sand gets into the hot tub it can cause serious damage.

Make sure that the surface is firm and level, preferably on a flat, concrete slab. If you are planning to have a hot tub installed on a patio or deck, have a structural engineer inspect the deck to ensure it can support the weight of the hot tub filled with water and people. An average four person hot tub weighs around 5000 pounds when full.

Mistake #6

Over looking the importance of the warranty

The types of warranties that you will see when shopping for your hot tubs will include the following areas:

Shell Structure - Warrants against water loss due to defects in the hot tub shell.
(average warranty period is one to ten years)

Shell Surface - Warrants the interior surface of the hot tub against blistering, peeling, cracking, and delamination.
(average warranty period is one to 5 years)

Leaks - Warrants against the loss of water due to defects in the fittings and plumbing lines.
(average warranty period is one to three years)

Equipment - Warrants the hot tub electronic controls and pumps against mechanical or electrical breakdown, including parts and labour.
(average warranty period is one to three years)

When you inspect your warranty, make sure that it covers each of these areas, including leaks. One of the "fine print" items the some hot tub retailers don't divulge is that the warranty may be "pro-rated" from day one meaning that you pay a certain percentage of the cost to fix it and the retailer will pay a percentage of the cost to fix the hot tub.

Make sure that you get a "full-warranty"

Mistake #7

Not choosing a reputable dealer and manufacturer. Beware of the Hot Tub & Swimspa EXPO

The technique is used by several manufacturers as a travelling road show to sell excess inventory in a quick and misleading fashion. All advertisements bill the expo as having 8 major brands on display, the reality is that it is one supplier with some false advertising. The old saying applies here "If the deal is too good to believe...it usually is"

Choosing the right dealer is as important as choosing the right hot tub. You are beginning a long-term relationship. You want to purchase your hot tub from a dealer that is honest, sells a high quality hot tub, has been in business for a while, and has a solid warranty. Anything less could spell disappointment.

The best way to judge a good dealer is to talk to some of their customers. Ask the dealer for permission to contact a few of their customers to discuss with them their experience. When you visit other dealers, ask them about the last dealer you just visited, Ask them about the hot tubs that their competition carries that you've already visited. More than likely, they'll bring up some interesting points that you'll want to verify.