

Helpful Hot Tub Tips

*Assess Your Needs,
Consider Your Options*



COMBINED POOL & SPA

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Helpful Hot Tub Buying Tips

Assess Your Needs, Consider Your Options



Is a hot tub in your future? Are you craving the sensation of slipping into warm, massaging water to relieve aches and pains after a long, exhausting day? As you begin the journey of exploring your options with a fantastic hot tub, you'll likely encounter many questions. Some will be easy to answer, while others will take expertise and careful consideration. Purchasing a hot tub is a process, and doing it right takes time.

With countless steps along the way, it makes sense to complete as many as you can ahead of time, even before browsing for your new investment.

Spending a few minutes now, to think about the process before, during and after taking delivery is a smart, practical strategy that will help you make the most informed decision in a hot tub that's sure to bring years of improved health, family fun and entertainment. Keep in mind, these are questions your dealer will likely ask and decisions you'll need to make before you buy- it's smart to give them adequate consideration.

Assess Your Needs Before You Go Shopping-

Budget, Timing and Location

There's an old proverb that's used frequently in business that says, "failing to plan is planning to fail". It's referenced often for good reason - it's true. Regardless of what it is you're trying to accomplish, whether it's selling your home, taking a new job, or making a large investment, the more you think through the details and plan ahead, the better your chances at success. The same is true with purchasing a hot

tub and the more you decide before you shop, the more likely you are to make the right decision in a quality product that fits your needs and your lifestyle best.

Budgeting and Purchasing Decisions - What types of pre-purchase decisions should you be thinking about? To begin with, you should know how much money you have available, and set a clear budget. Having a concrete dollar figure in mind will help you avoid spending too much, but also keep your focus on only those hot tubs that you can realistically afford. Besides, with a clear budget in mind, you'll be able to more effectively decide which features and accessories you "must have" and which are better as add-on's for a later date.

Determining a realistic price point is only part of effective planning. You still need to think about the actual purchasing process itself. Simply because cash is available to you, doesn't necessarily mean you should use it. Financing may be more sensible given your situation and shouldn't be discounted. Put all of your options on the table and you'll find it much easier to make the right decision.

Timing Is Everything - Another pre-purchase consideration involves thinking through an appropriate time frame. How soon do you want a hot tub? Do you have your heart set on purchasing one this week or can you wait until you've had time to research top brands? Even if you're not planning to buy for several months, learning about a future investment is a smart way to understand specific features, accessories and customized options. Remember, quality hot tub manufacturers want you to research their brands. They're ahead of the competition when it comes to innovation, energy efficiency and the types of details that keep operating costs low and your hot tub performing as it should.



Location, Location, Location - Finally, planning ahead can help you make the right decision about where in your home you can safely and conveniently put a hot tub. Many first time buyers make the mistake of assuming the one place they've

designated is fine, only to be frustrated on delivery day when the tub doesn't fit or the space isn't configured properly to accommodate a hot tub. Make sure to take accurate measurements and always check that the necessary plumbing and electrical hook ups are available and in working order.

Size and Seating Options

Modern hot tubs are available in all kinds of shapes and sizes. Compact units make it easier than ever to soak with a spouse or significant other even with limited space. Large, oversized party tubs can accommodate up to ten or more people at one time, providing the perfect outdoor retreat for entertaining friends and family. Thinking through your "wants" versus your "needs" will ensure you don't buy too much hot tub, only to be disappointed.

Determining the Right Size - You may have already decided that you want a large hot tub. But can you honestly say that you really need seating for six or more? Remember, size has nothing to do with performance, and a small, compact unit with the right jet placement is often all you need to create a fantastic in home retreat. Determining the size that's most appropriate for your needs can be confusing, but it's worth thinking through who will be using the hot tub the most. The right energy efficient features are sure to keep operating costs low, but it's still really a good strategy to not buy more than you really need.

Seating Options - Modern hot tubs are a far cry from traditional wooden tubs with straight back seats. In fact, when it comes to comfort and style, there are several types of seating arrangements to choose from. High performance lounges, contoured and bench style are the basic options, but there are a wide range of variations for each. While choosing the perfect seating arrangement for your hot tub really comes down to personal choice, knowing ahead of time how many people will be using the tub can help you decide.



Think of your hot tub as an extension of your family room in your home. What is it that you enjoy most about relaxing in that room? Can you stretch your legs and lie back on a comfortable couch? Perhaps you have a favorite upright chair that supports tired back muscles at the end of a long day.

Many hot tub seats are contoured to fit natural curves of the human body, but each style is slightly different. When shopping, don't be afraid to step into several hot tubs to get a feel for different seating arrangements.



Take note of where your arms and feet rest, and be sure to learn where on your body massaging jets will be pushing streams of water for the best customized massage. Lounge style seats allow you to recline, but can be limited if you intend on using the hot tub with friends. Upright bench seats offer more flexibility for entertaining, but lack the reclining feature. Choosing the right option doesn't need to be difficult. Simply be honest about who will be using the tub most and what your expectations are.

Shopping Options – Big Box Versus Online Versus Local Dealer

The good news is, when you're ready to go shopping for a hot tub, finding them is never a challenge. Big box stores carry a wide range of manufacturers with limitless inventory. Online venues let you preview a variety of different styles from the comforts of home. However, you should know that while there are benefits and advantages to each, there is simply no substitute for speaking with a local professional who can answer questions, provide prompt service and help you resolve any after-purchase challenges that may arise quickly and efficiently. Here are a few things to consider when choosing where to buy.

Exceptional Customer Service - Local dealerships have the advantage over large retail chains and online stores simply because they are local. As members of the community, they often place a premium on providing exceptional customer service because their reputation depends on it. Local dealers who have stood the test of time are successful because they've developed a personal relationship with their customers and they know that word of mouth advertising is the cornerstone to running a profitable business.

While “big box” stores may be able to offer you a lower priced “off brand” hot tub, these national chains, simply cannot provide the same personalized service as local dealers because they often carry many different brands, without the expertise to cover them all.

On Site Service Technicians – Look for local hot tub dealerships that employ their own on-site service technicians. With ongoing maintenance an important part of ownership, having a dealer close to home who can resolve issues quickly offers peace of mind. Many large retail stores send service requests out to a third-party and that means less time enjoying your hot tub and more time waiting for it.



Opportunity to Take a Test Soak - A hot tub is a large investment, and one that most local dealers understand takes time, information and in many cases, first hand knowledge. Reputable local dealers are generally more than happy to schedule a time for you to come in and take a test soak. Viewing a hot tub dry is nothing like getting in one that is filled with water, and a soak will tell you far more than a fantastic image online or even touching one on a dry display.

Accessory Options

Just like a perfectly matched shoe can enhance a woman's outfit or man's suite, the right accessories can enhance your enjoyment of your hot tub experience. If you've taken time to set your budget and you know which hot tubs are within your price range, complementing your purchase with a few well-chosen accessory items can be fun.



Cover Lifter - The right cover lifter is a fantastic addition to your spa reducing wear and tear, and making it easier than ever to lift the cover off and on. In addition to convenience, a cover lifter extends the life of your cover by keeping it off the ground. Gas springs mean you can lift the cover with little manual effort.

Surround or Steps - A gorgeous surround to complement your hot tub creates instant aesthetic appeal, turning the ordinary into extraordinary. Add a few steps and you never have to think about safety as getting in and out is easy and convenient.

Music and Television - How about a fantastic entertainment option to complement a relaxing soak? Hot tub owners appreciate streaming music or watching a favorite movie while enjoying a personalized massage. Wireless TV and sound adds the finishing touch to a home retreat, and with waterproof and temperature resistant components, there's nothing like winding down in style.

Water Filtration and Maintenance Options

A clean, comfortable spa is the key to enjoying your investment and familiarizing yourself with available water filtration and maintenance options makes sense.

Traditional Water Care Products - Every hot tub requires some maintenance, and understanding what's involved ahead of time ensures you know what to expect. Maintenance is minimal, and typically involves chlorine and bromine sanitizers, balancers, water conditioners, even calcium removers. However, if you're looking to minimize maintenance responsibilities, there are other options that can help keep the water in your spa crystal clear for minimal effort.

Salt Water Sanitizing Systems - Salt water sanitizing systems can save significant time on maintenance as cleaners are automatically generated in the water. A hands-free approach makes sense, and with fewer products needed, you'll not only use less water, but you'll have to drain your hot tub less frequently too.



Everfresh Water Care Systems - For clean water with less chlorine, the Everfresh water care system may be the right choice. Cleaning is continuous and contaminants are eliminated through silver ion purifiers and non-chlorine oxidizers. Hot tub owners looking for clean, sanitized water with less chlorine residue appreciate the Everfresh system.

In Conclusion

Hopefully after reading this guide, you will have learned a great deal about what's involved in purchasing a hot tub for your home. By organizing your thoughts, coming up with a plan and familiarizing yourself with a few details, you can go into the purchasing process confident, assured and relaxed.



A hot tub is an exciting opportunity to enjoy improved health, quality time with friends and family and fun. The more you know, the easier it will be to make the right decision every time.

About Us



Combined Pool and Spa has been a family owned business since 1976. We specialize in In-ground and Above-ground Pools and hot tubs.

In addition, we sell and service Saunas, Patio Furniture and Billiard Tables. We offer great customer service with a full complement of pool and spa chemicals, free water testing and much more.

Although we have been a Hot Spring Spas dealer for over 30 years, we do provide hot tub service on most every major brand.

The brand names we represent include: Hot Spring Spas, Olhausen, American Heritage, Helo Saunas, Agio, Owlee, Hansen patio furniture.

Contact Us

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