



Portable Spa Buyers Guide

Now that you've considered enjoying your own spa full time, you may need some assistance with your selection. At [Inter-Spas](#), we've designed this buyer's guide to alleviate confusion and aid in your quest for the perfect hot tub.

While browsing the web, driving between stores and frequenting the local home shows may yield plenty of information, there is one problem that many of our consumers find themselves facing. That is many hot tubs look very similar and share common features. With an infinite number of brands and models available, how is anyone ever supposed to choose the right brand and model for their needs? Well, that's where we come in. We build hot tubs and swim spas around your needs by determining your specific lifestyle. The following considerations will help determine what to look for in the perfect portable spa choice for you.

Spa Size

As a manufacturer, [Inter-Spas](#) can build any size portable spa. We have hot tubs and swim spas that will fit just about anywhere and will accommodate seating configurations from two people all the way up to twelve. The first thing to consider with size is where the portable spa will be installed. Are there any size limitations in the space set aside for the hot tub? Having plenty of room for the spa means the actual dimensions of the unit will fit in the area planned for installation, and there will be enough room on one or two sides to remove the cover and enjoy the spa.

Now that we've determined where the spa will be placed, the next step is understanding how many people will be using the spa. For over twenty years we've been gathering consumer information from our customers and have found in a typical household, there are several ways to enjoy hot tubs and swim spas. Maybe your hot tub will be used to bring the family together for conversation. Maybe your spa will enable some quiet alone time for mom and dad to unwind at the end of the day. Whatever the situation you want to make sure there is adequate seating to enjoy one another's company.

Intended Use

Before deciding on jets, pumps, and other technical information, it's important to determine how you will use your new portable spa. Again, this is where our 20 year industry experience in [manufacturing hot tubs](#) can be of major benefit.

If your plans are to use the portable spa for medical reasons or physical therapy, determining the focal points of the body will help us “build a better chair” for you. This means choosing the models that have the correct seating positions. This enables us to strategically place jets for hydrotherapy on muscle groups you would like to focus on. For example, lower back hydrotherapy would require deep seats that allow us to install massaging jets in a lower position on your back. If you have neck pains or shoulder fatigue, patented hydrotherapy collars direct therapy to those areas as well. Since we are the manufacturer, we can build hot tubs and swim spas to accommodate many uses and seating arrangements to maximize hydrotherapy benefits.

On the other hand, if your plans are to use the spa for recreation, family togetherness or simply as a toy in the home for everyone to soak, then barrier free, easy to move around in seating configurations will be a better match for you.

Now that you know the best ways to enjoy your portable spa, we can determine the locations of jets and how many to install which then determines the number of pumps, size of motors and so on. Obviously the more jets that are turned on at the same time, the more power your portable spa will need to perform. This is why Inter-Spas offers multiple pumps with higher horsepower than other poorly manufactured brands. We want your spa to perform at optimum levels. Never the less, determining how our hot tubs and swim spas will be used enables us to narrow down the search for your perfect spa.

Location

The location of your installation and operation climate will be our next focus. If the spa will be installed inside the home or closed area, the cabinet exterior and insulation used to make the spa energy efficient can be manufactured differently than if your hot tub spa will be placed outdoors.

Most manufacturers will preach insulation, insulation, insulation. Some may offer “full foam, meaning that they completely fill the cabinet and plumbing area with an expandable foam and others may offer some sort of “wrap” around the cabinet. Inter-Spas includes these forms of insulation techniques, but the difference is we only use them when you need them. The main focus to consider at this stage is how to maintain the highest efficiency, quietest performance and longevity of operation from your new spa and it's components. What do you say we take a closer look at your installation?

If you install your spa in a climate controlled indoor environment, you may want to choose a furniture grade cabinet to match your home decor. We also recommend proper insulation for efficiency and noise reduction including foam insulation sprayed lightly around the cabinet

interior. This provides the best support for plumbing and noise reduction. Electronic components are also preserved with this method allowing them to be properly ventilated.

If you install your spa outdoors, and exposed to the elements, a synthetic, maintenance free cabinet exterior will be the best choice. Synthetic cabinets will stand the test of time and maintain a new look for years to come. In a climate exposed to snow, rain, and freezing temperatures, you want the spa's plumbing cavity, and cabinet exterior completely foam filled. This will support the plumbing, quiet the operation of the portable spa and most importantly offer the highest efficiency available for this type of environment. Keep in mind that if you live in a hot temperate climate, you may want a little more airflow inside for venting, but if your weather gets cold, choose a fully insulated model.

Whether your portable spa is installed indoors or outdoors, always make sure that it's manufactured with a solid, waterproof fully enclosed bottom beneath its structure. This will reduce noise, increase efficiency, and reduce the risks of damage caused by moisture or pests. At Inter-Spas, our goal is to offer the best components and manufacturing practices the industry has to offer.

Now that we've determined the size, how many seats and how you will use your portable spa, we need to take a closer look at maintenance.

Maintenance

Our goal is to provide a portable spa that requires very little maintenance. This means it's easy to take care of and operates flawlessly for a long time. Most hot tubs require daily treatments and weekly water testing, much like a swimming pool. This can be time consuming, tedious work, and the end results are hot tubs and swim spas that smell like chemical baths. In the two decades Inter-Spas has been in the business, we've found electronic water management is the key to chemical odor elimination. Our systems use ultra-violet light and oxygen to kill bacteria growth in the water, while simultaneously filtering the water through a scrubbing system. While cleaning the water, our hot tubs and swim spas automatically stay fresh and clean. This unique system will cut your maintenance by up to 90% and enable odor free enzymes to clean your water. With the Inter-Spas water sanitation system, use a once per month chemical treatment for fresh smelling water, and a bi-weekly filter rinse, and your maintenance is complete. Sounds easy? Well it is.

Installation

Installation is an important topic as we have to determine the [electrical requirements](#), discuss installation site access, and spa placement upon arrival to your home. Let's start with the electrical connections.

In most cases the portable spa will need to be wired directly to your breaker box. This can be easily done by calling an electrician and having a wire installed that runs between the portable spa and the home breaker box. Some of our models can run on a standard 15 amp 120V home receptacle, but in most cases a 240V/ 50 amp line is needed. It may cost a few hundred

dollars to have this done, but a 240V hot tub has several advantages over the 120V models. The most important advantage is the strength and efficiency of the heater. Another advantage is over time the operating costs on the 240V unit will be substantially less than the 120v models. If the spa is going to be installed outdoors, it is our recommendation that you always choose a 240V model.

Since most retailers and stores do not provide the electrical hook up on delivery, it is recommended that you put the spa in place first, then call the electrician. At that point they can stop by, give you a quote and/or perform the work in a timely manner. Generally a portable spa can be installed and hooked up in less than a day.

Since all of our hot tubs and swim spas are portable, there is no need for permanent plumbing connections, fresh water source hook ups or drain connections. Simply fill your new portable spa with a garden hose, run the electric and turn the breaker on. Your new spa will be up and running that easily.

As far as delivery is concerned, Inter-Spas uses a national moving company to deliver all hot tubs and swim spas nationwide. This means they are equipped to unload the spa from the truck once they arrive. In most cases they can be hired to carry the portable spa to the installation site. Keep in mind all of our hot tubs come well wrapped completely padded and attached to a pallet. This means they can easily be placed on their sides to fit through gates, doors and narrow openings. Take comfort knowing your investment will be handled with the utmost care.

Warranty / Service

Unlike retailers, we do not have the luxury of asking you to call someone else if there is ever a problem. Since we are the manufacturer, we have a complete understanding of the inner workings of your portable spa. Should a problem ever arise, please feel free to contact us and we will do everything we can to make it right.

At Inter-Spas, we are dedicated to customer service as it holds the building blocks for future referrals. Our qualified factory [customer care center](#) is always available to answer questions, give advice, or take care of any problems you may encounter. You should also know all of our hot tubs and swim spas are backed by [extensive factory warranties](#) that cover all components and materials used to manufacture your portable spa.

We hope you found our portable spa buyer's guide useful, and thank you for your interest in Inter-Spas. Contact our sales team today at 1-877-SPA-7817 to get started.

It's time to relax your way....Build a hot tub spa with Inter-Spas!