

# SPA POOL BUYER'S GUIDE

---

From the Experts at



# INTRODUCTION

## TAKE THE FIRST STEP TOWARD OWNING A SPA POOL:

A spa pool is more than a home improvement product — it's a self-improvement product. A soothing retreat that's part of your home, an intimate oasis that you share with family and friends. Most importantly, a spa serves as a tangible investment in your mental health, physical health, relationships and overall happiness. A place where you can unwind and truly feel your very best. Shopping or browsing for a spa pool should be fun.

But before you purchase the first spa you find, take a moment to find out what you should consider before you even start your search and learn practical tips that will help you find your perfect spa.



# CONTENTS

## SECTION 1: SPA BASICS:

- 1 Initial Questions** - Ask yourself these important questions as you begin your journey to spa pool ownership. 3
- 2 Water Care** - Discover how easy it to care for a spa and browse popular spa water care options. 4
- 3 Features That Matter** - Learn about massage jets, entertainment systems and other features that you can select for your spa. 7
- 4 Spa Filtration** - Learn the basics of spa filtration and key things to look for in filtrations systems when browsing spas. 10
- 5 Operating Cost** - Estimated your monthly cost of spa pool ownership and learn more about energy saving features. 11

## SECTION 2: BUYING ADVICE:

- 6 Finding a Brand** - Narrow down your spa pool search with these simple tips on what to look for in a spa brand. 13
- 7 Selecting a Model** - Pick your perfect spa by asking yourself these specific questions. 14
- 8 Avoid Buying Mistakes** - Stay a step ahead while shopping for spa pool by learning to avoid these common mistakes. 15

# INITIAL QUESTIONS

Ask yourself the following questions before you start searching for your spa.

## **Where would you place a spa pool in your home or yard?**

Spa pools are designed to fit seamlessly into your space. You'll use your spa more if you position it close to a door for convenient access.

## **What's my spa budget?**

Spas can range dramatically in price depending on the model, size and features. You'll want to determine which features are most important to you as you narrow down your options to determine your target price.

## **Who do you want to share your spa pool with?**

Spa pools are available in a variety of sizes, from spas for just the two of you to tubs designed for large parties.

## **Do you want to relieve stress, tensions, aches or pains in specific parts of your body?**

Choose a spa that has jets placed in the right spots to provide the relief you need — precisely where you need it.

## **How often should I use my spa?**

Spa pools are designed for daily use, so look for a reliable spa that you can count on every day and the water is hot and ready for a soak when you are.

# WATER CARE

Less time for maintenance means more time to relax in your spa. Though all spas require some simple chemical maintenance, such as testing the water's pH, the process should be easy and stress-free for you. When looking at a spa you're interested in, ask a sales professional to explain your water care options.

## THE THREE MOST COMMON WAYS TO MAINTAIN SPA POOL WATER ARE:

- 1 Traditional Chlorine** – This popular type of spa water sanitation uses a chlorine formula especially formulated for spa pools to cleanse impurities from the water.
- 2 Ozone System** – Known by many different names depending on the brand, these systems reduce the need for chlorine by generating a high concentration of ozone that thoroughly cleans spa water on contact.
- 3 Salt Water Sanitation** – Salt water sanitising systems automatically generate chlorine sanitiser from salt added to the water. With these systems, you'll need to add fewer bottled products to the water and enjoy better water quality with less maintenance — without the harsh side effects of traditional water care.



## HOT SPRING TIPS:

**Choose The FreshWater™ Salt System** – Available on all Highlife® Collection and Limelight® Collection spas, this easy-to-use salt water system eliminates the worry of keeping spa water clean, clear and sanitized for a full year.\* With just a little salt in your spa water, the system generates chlorine automatically so you'll spend less time measuring and adding chemicals. This unique system makes spa ownership easier than ever by removing the guesswork and hassle of water care maintenance.



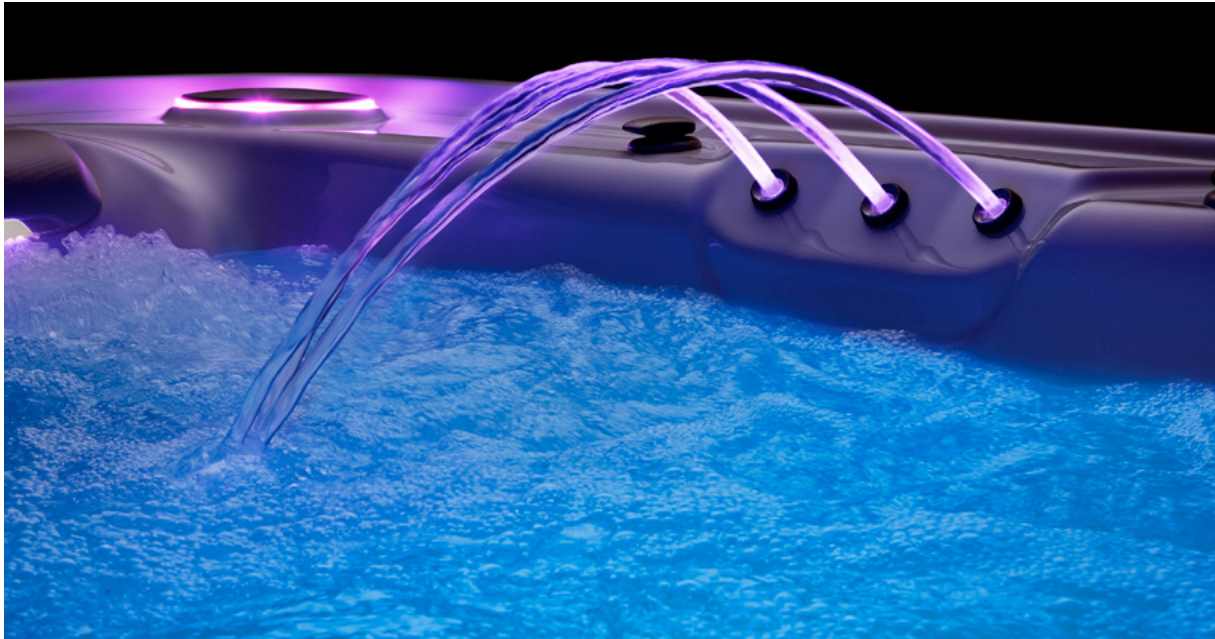
# FEATURES THAT MATTER

You're looking for a spa that's cost efficient, clean and easy to use — but what about the details that make it yours? With most models, you can choose the colour of the shell in the spa cabinet and cover. You can also customise your spa experience by adding entertainment systems and other accessories. Before you buy, consider what features are most important to you when making your spa pool dream a reality.

## **YOUR PERFECT MASSAGE:**

Above ground spa pools generally feature anywhere from 20 to 100 jets, all targeted to certain muscle groups to help you emerge from your spa feeling your best. When you're looking at models, look for powerful, patented jets that will provide the type of massage you need in the areas where you need it most. Also look for targeted jet groups. Having more jets doesn't always mean you'll have the best spa. Often, having fewer jets in targeted groups will conserve energy and give a better, more focused massage.





## **WATER FEATURES AND LIGHTS:**

Customised multi-colour lighting and soothing water features can enhance any relaxing spa experience, adding ambience to your backyard. Think about how you will use your spa, and decide how important these features will be to you. Find out if the spa you are considering, allows you to customise these features - so that you can adjust the lighting and water feature based on your mood.

## **IN-SPA ENTERTAINMENT:**

From relaxing to the soothing sounds of a favourite song to enjoying the best seat in the house for your favourite TV show, wireless and Bluetooth® technology make it easy to connect your favourite shows or songs to your spa pool with TV and sound systems. If this is what you're looking for, communicate it to a sales professional or dealer while browsing.



## HOT SPRING TIPS:

**See innovation at work** – For 40 years, Hot Spring Spas engineered and manufactured spas that pushed the envelope of innovation. See how Hot Spring products feature cutting-edge jets, offer in-spa entertainment systems, lights and water features. For innovative spas with in-spa entertainment options, view the [Hot Spring Highlife® collection](#). For spas featuring lights, water features and breathtaking contemporary style, view the [Hot Spring Limelight® collection](#).

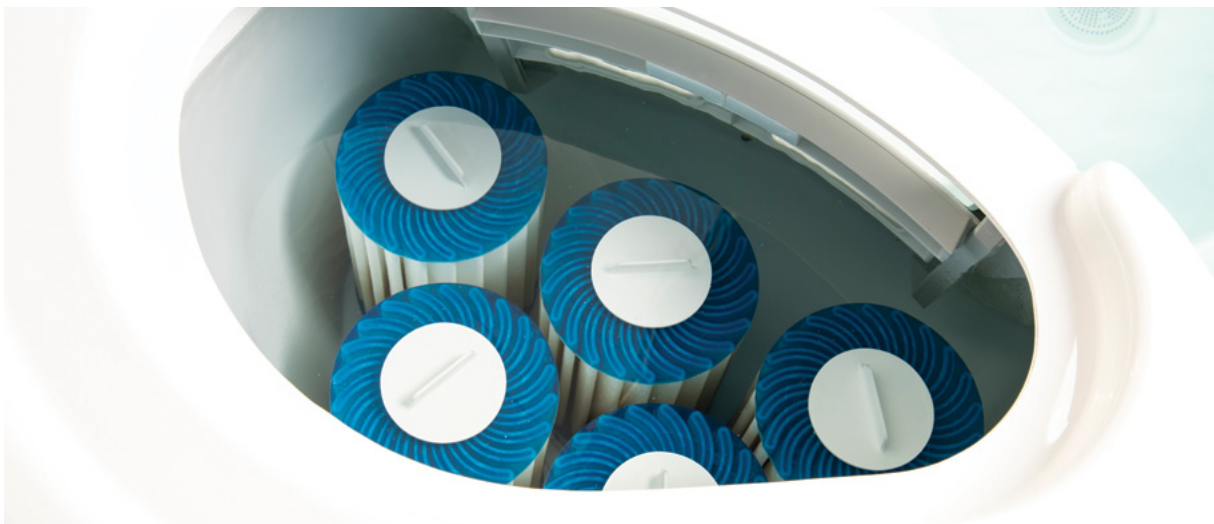


# SPA FILTRATION

Crystal clear water is essential to the entire spa experience. Most spa filters work by capturing and removing impurities and debris in the water, but they vary by size depending on the brand and size of the spa. Some spas feature a dedicated 24-hour circulation pump, that circulates the water quietly, and efficiently without requiring use of the jet pumps. If energy efficiency and quiet operation are important to you, choose a spa with a dedicated circulation pump. When browsing spas, look closely at a spa's filtration system — keep in mind that filtration systems will vary in shape and size. Also, look for spas with frequent filtration cycles. Water moving through the system constantly keeps it clean and contaminate-free.

## WHEN LOOKING AT FILTRATION SYSTEMS:

- Make sure it's easy to access for periodic maintenance.
- Ask if the filters are disposable or dishwasher-safe.
- Look for filters that are easy to remove and change.
- Ask how often the spa completes filtration cycles



# OPERATING COST

Because spas require electricity to power the jets, heat and circulate the water, new spa pool owners generally see an increase in their electricity bill after installing their spa. So how much will it cost you to run your spa pool? That depends on the type of spa you buy, ambient temperature in your area, the temperature of the water, frequency of use and the cost of electricity where you live, but it can range from as little as a few dollars per month to much more. It's important that you understand how the spa pool you choose is designed to keep operating costs low. To help minimise these costs, many spa manufacturers produce more energy-efficient spa pools than ever before.

## **LOOK FOR ENERGY EFFICIENT FEATURES LIKE:**

- High-density, complete insulation in the entire spa.
- A high-density spa cover that seals completely.
- A continuous, energy-efficient water circulation pump.
- Jets and controls designed for the realities of use.
- Heaters that maximise heat-to-water transfer.



## HOT SPRING TIPS:

**Monthly Energy Cost Calculator:** – You can use Hot Spring’s unique energy calculator to determine a rough estimate of what a spa pool would cost you per month based on the size of the spa, mean ambient temperature and your local rate per kilowatt hour. Leading the industry in energy efficient design, Hot Spring offers [EnergySmart®](#) features that keep operating costs low. Estimate your monthly operating costs using our [Energy Calculator](#).



Estimate your monthly operating costs

 Jetsetter

 Auckland (15.1°C)

The average monthly cost\* to operate the Jetsetter HotSpring spa:

 In a climate similar to Auckland (15.1°C)

 At an approximate rate of 0.19/per KWH

**\$30.72**



# FINDING A BRAND

With hundreds of spa pool and models available from a variety of companies, it's easy to feel overwhelmed when beginning to search for the right spa pool. So instead of trying to select a model right off the bat, narrow down your search to a brand you trust first, then select a model.

## TO FIND A SPA BRAND THAT YOU LIKE, DO THE FOLLOWING:

**Look for a company with a record of success** – When you begin researching spa brands, look at the company's history. While some brands come and go with products that may not last, the most successful spa pool sellers offer decades of reliable products, innovative ideas and long lasting warranties for their products.

**Read customer reviews** – Look for customer reviews about spa brands online and on a brand's specific website. You want to select a manufacturer with a commitment to transparency and accountability for the product they build. When a brand openly engages, listens and responds to customer feedback, you can feel more assured that you will receive quality support after you buy.

**Call or visit local dealers** – A local dealer can help you find a spa pool that fits your needs and answer any questions you have about spas. Look for a dealer that is close and convenient to your home, with a knowledgeable service department and friendly staff who help their customers before, during and after their spa pool purchase.

# SELECTING A MODEL

After researching spas online and browsing them in-person, you're almost ready to unwind in your own. Maybe you've even tried a test soak and experienced a comfortable spa first hand. Hopefully, a few models stood out to you.

Once you've narrowed down your choices to a single brand or two, answer the following questions and think about a spa pool in terms of what matters to you. Use your answers to help you eventually select the specific spa model that's right for you

## **WHAT SIZE SPA POOL DO I WANT OR NEED?**

- Do I plan to use the spa for personal relaxation or entertaining?
- On average, how many people will be using my spa pool?
- Where can I place my spa pool outside to make it easily accessible?

## **DO THE JETS AND OTHER FEATURES FIT MY NEEDS?**

- Where do I need to relieve tension in my body with massage jets?
- Do I want a lounge seat in my spa?
- Do I want custom lights, water features or an entertainment system?
- Do I want a chlorine, salt water or ozone water care system?

## **HOW WILL I PAY FOR MY SPA POOL?**

- What is my budget for a new spa pool?
- How much will owning a spa pool cost me monthly?

# AVOID BUYING MISTAKES

- 1 Not accounting for size and space** – Be sure to take measurements of the space you would like to place your spa, as well as of the path you will use to install it. From a patio to a backyard, taking simple measurements ahead of time will make installation easy when the time comes, giving you more time to enjoy your new spa.
- 2 Underestimating the value of an energy efficient spa** – Energy efficient spas will save you money in the long run, keeping your energy bill lower even during cold winter months. Be sure to speak to a sales professional and read reviews about energy efficient models. Talk to your power company about the price of power in your area.
- 3 Neglecting to maintain your spa** – Like a car or pool, a spa pool requires regular maintenance to function at its absolute best. Learn everything you can about the simple, quick spa maintenance that you will do yourself, like checking the chemical balance. Also keep up with your dealership for offers, services and support.
- 4 Avoid ‘DIY’ installation of the spa itself** – Unless you’re a trained professional, you probably want to avoid installing your new spa pool yourself. A certified dealer will make sure the plumbing and electric elements of your new spa are installed correctly and functioning optimally, which can save you money in repairs down the road. Additionally, certified dealers are trained to safely lift and move spas.

# CONCLUSION

## AN INVESTMENT IN YOUR HEALTH & HAPPINESS

At the end of the day, a spa pool is one of the most tangible, rewarding purchases you can make for yourself and your loved ones. Relaxing in a spa is a simple way to rid your body of stress and tension, share a joyous moment with your loved-ones, or to simply take time to soak up the outdoors in the comfort of your backyard. Heat, water and massage tangibly improve your mental health, physical health, relationships and overall happiness — to help you feel your very best.



To learn more about spas visit [hotspring.co.nz](https://hotspring.co.nz)

Follow us on social media:

