



How to install a hot tub



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Use our step-by-step guide to avoid making simple mistakes when installing a new hot tub.

Installing a hot tub in your garden is actually far simpler than you might expect. In fact, once you've decided on and prepped the location, there shouldn't be much else to do to get it up and running. However, there are some key things to consider before your tub arrives, including whether you'll need to request planning permission, and ensuring that the ground it will sit on is suitable.

Where to put a hot tub

Preparing the place where you plan to put your hot tub is essential. This will help the installation process go as smoothly as possible, and ensure ongoing maintenance won't become a nightmare. There are five main things to consider when settling on a location:

1. Solid ground: Make sure you have a firm, flat, level base to sit the hot tub on. Slabs, concrete, gravel, brick and paving stones should all be fine. You can also buy hot-tub pads to place on more uneven ground to create a sturdy foundation. Decking is a popular choice, but you'll need to check with a professional to ensure yours can take the weight of the tub. The same applies for wood-fired hot tubs. You'll also need to invest in a hearth plate to stop any embers from ruining your flooring.

2. Drainage: Your hot tub will need to be drained at least a few times a year, so it's best to locate it near an existing drain if possible. If there isn't a suitable space in your garden, you can either install a new drain, or find the lowest part of your garden so you can flush the water straight into the ground when it's time to change it. You can do this using a hose attached the hot-tub plug. You will inevitably get some water overflow from the top of the tub as people use it, so make sure your flooring won't be damaged by the extra moisture. This is particularly important if you have wooden decking.



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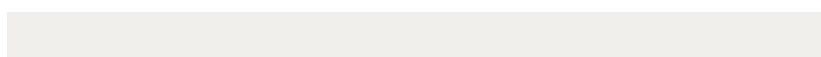
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3. Power supply: There are two ways to connect your hot tub: plug it into a wall outlet, or attach it directly to your home's central circuit-breaker box. Always check which one your hot tub needs before buying. You'll then need to hire an electrician to either connect your tub to the mains or install a waterproof, outdoor plug socket on to the side of your house if you haven't already got one. The socket also needs to be protected by a circuit breaker or residual current device (RCD). Most wood-fired hot tubs won't need any electricity to run.

4. Easy access for use and maintenance: Try to leave around 1-2 feet surrounding the hot tub so that any maintenance works can be carried out easily. Close proximity to an outdoor tap and hose will make it much easier to fill the tub after each clean. You should also ensure you can get in and out of the tub safely.

5. Privacy, noise and aesthetics: As well as the technical considerations, your hot tub's location should also be an enjoyable place to sit – ideally you'd have a spot with a nice view. If you plan to use your tub while socialising, think about placing it near an outdoor seating area, and ideally close to outdoor lighting so you can use the tub safely at night. Keeping it near to the house will make it safer and much easier to use when it's cold and dark. Importantly, try to pick a private spot. You don't want to be overlooked by your neighbours, or disturb them when the hot tub is in use.



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