



## What to look for in a spa

**Rollover Lip:** Ensure the lip of the tub rolls over the cabinet edges so displaced water will run directly on to the floor. If it doesn't and the shell sits on top of the cabinet, leaving a wooden ledge around the perimeter, then displaced water will pool on the ledge and in a relatively short time the wood will discolour and rot. The mastic bead, just like the ones around most domestic bath tubs, is likely to rot and peel away, allowing water to ingress into the tubs cabinet.

**Total Immersion:** Some tubs are only 29" or 30" deep and therefore bathers often find their upper torso is exposed to the elements and so, especially in winter, the bathing experience is uncomfortable. Additionally taller bathers will find there is not the depth to stretch out and therefore they end up sitting in "knees up" position which leads to discomfort in the abdominal areas. So be sure to sit in the tubs you are looking at to ensure that they "fit" you.

**Foot Well:** The whole Hot Tub bathing experience is all out relaxing aching muscles and unwinding tired minds, so just imagine...there you nicely reclined, warm water gently caressing you...then someone's big hairy leg and foot comes into contact with yours...Yuk! You see unless you have a nice wide deep foot well you're likely to encounter such an unpleasant experience. Ensure the foot well allows all the bathers plenty of room, thus ensuring the only feet you come into contact with are those you want to!

**Insulation:** Be careful here as most tub manufacturers can only ever insulate at most three quarters of their tub. This is because they have the pump and heating equipment mounted inside the tub's cabinet, such they can only foam fill three sides of the cabinet. Now would you only insulate three walls of your home? Check that it is covered in "Marine Grade" vinyl and not cheap domestic upholstery vinyl which will all too quickly weather, fade and tear.

**Comfort:** Remember to ask to sit in a "dry" tub to evaluate the comfort. For optimum comfort look for ergonomic seating as opposed to bench type seating and make sure the jets are recessed. Some tubs do not have recesses in the shells mould and thus causes the jets to sit proud of the shell and cause discomfort when you lean back on to them.

**Reflexology:** Check to see if the tub offers foot massage jets in the floor wall. An absolute must for those who are on their feet all day. Fantastic for giving life back to those fallen arches and stretched tendons.

**All Active Seating:** Make sure that when the massage pump is on all jetted seats and loungers are active. In some cases you may have four seats being served by one pump and the only way you can give the optimum flow rate to two of the seats is to, via a divert valve, shut off the supply to the other two, thus you do not have all active seating. Beachcombers engineering ensures that optimum performance is achieved at all seats, not just some of them.

**Jets:** Don't fall for the ones with "lots and lots" of jets. The best hydrotherapy and massage comes from fewer rather than more jets. Think about your everyday shower head. When the shower head rose is fully open and lots of holes (jets) are open you will receive a gently soft shower. Turn the rose such you now only have four or five holes open and you get an intense impulse shower, proving that, less jets, give a better massage. Top of the range tubs like Beachcomber will be engineered to have the correct number of jets placed in positions designed to target specific muscle groups and ensure maximum muscle stimulation. The heart will then pump blood to the stimulated muscles accelerating the production of endorphins, the body's natural painkiller. Make sure the jets are interchangeable such you can bespoke the type of massage you like in the seat you most prefer.

**Safety:** Make sure access in and out of the tub is safe with well thought out internal entry/exit steps. Avoid tubular hand grips or rails too. It's been known for small children's hands and wrists to get trapped behind them causing injury and unnecessary distress in what after all should be a place of fun and relaxation. Additionally the metal tubular grips look great in the showroom but water is full of minerals and once water evaporates, just like your sink taps at home, it leaves an unsightly residue which means extra cleaning.

**Pillows:** Some manufacturers fit pillows inside their tubs. Behind fitted pillows it will be dark and warm, the perfect place for bacteria to breed, especially as they are above the water line and therefore out of reach of the sanitizer in the water. Beachcomber offers portable pillows in marine grade vinyl material, which you take in and out of the tub. Much healthier!.