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# What to Know about Hot Tubs and Energy Use

## **Things to Know and Take into Thought Regarding Hot Tubs & Spas on the topic of Regarding Efficient & Inefficient Usage of Energy Resources**

*Consumer knowledge of energy standards continues to grow every year as manufacturers list the cost-saving benefits of buying their particular products.*

- Hot tubs have increased in popularity because they are recognized for their therapeutic value as well as a place to relax after a hard day's work.
- The [California Energy Commission](#) took a burden off the shoulders of consumers by mandating energy standards for hot tubs (also called spas and [Jacuzzis](#)) under Title 20.
- Energy efficiency must be met in the areas of performance, design, and construction before a hot tub can be sold in that state.

**Testing and rating for hot tubs is not easy to find, although manufacturer's data including options like towel warmers and stereo sound are listed.**

[Consumer Search suggests](#) this is because "Experts say the best hot tub is the one that's most comfortable for you, which is a very personal decision. "Instead of focusing on the reasons brand A is more energy efficient than brand B, spa companies focus on stating what is available for each model. Anyone in the market for a spa can look over product information, read reviews from Home Depot, [Amazon.com spa reviews](#), and [Spasearch magazine](#), and ask unbiased experts for an opinion.

**The type and number of pumps have a lot to do with keeping energy use down while the hot tub is running.**

- [One-speed pumps](#) deliver water pressure to the jets and rely on a small circulation pump to move the water and generate heat to the spa.
- [Two-speed pumps](#) handle both tasks. Horsepower, the size of the spa, and even its location affect the energy use required for operation.

**Surprisingly, owners are more entranced with looks and power than energy use.**

- That has a lot to do with so many companies complying with or exceeding California energy efficiency requirements.
- In a review, [Kenk offered the following comment](#) about the [QCA Naples 6-person spa](#) with Polar Insulation, LED lighting, and WOW sound he purchased from [Home Depot](#): “It is not only very attractive, but has pumps which are significantly powerful.”

**Hot tub owners can reduce the estimated \$30 a month to use the spa daily by ensuring their unit has excellent insulation to retain the water’s warmth.**

- There are three [basic levels of hot tub insulation](#) that affect operating costs.
- The [least efficient is basic insulation](#), which is a layer of polyurethane foam applied to the shell’s underside.
- Adding a layer of foam to the inside of the cabinet creates the middle level called [blanket or layered insulation](#).
- Finally, there is the preferred level of [full-foam insulation](#), which is standard on over 70 percent of hot tubs.
- The space under the tub is filled with solid foam that greatly decreases heat loss, supports the tub and plumbing, and adds soundproofing.

**Hot tub owners appreciate the ability to further reduce energy consumption with well-insulated locking covers, naturally insulated sidings, and energy-efficient cells.**

**Accessories like waterfalls, LED lighting, aromatherapy units, and towel warmers ultimately affect which choice is made.**

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#### **Resources Cited:**

[1] - <http://www.consumersearch.com/hot-tubs>

<http://www.homedepot.com/p/QCA-Spas-Naples-6-Person-93-Jet-Spa-with-Ultra->

[Wave-Ozonator-LED-Light-Polar-Insulation-WOW-Sound-System-and-Hard-Cover-Model-23LA-SM/202883681?N=5yc1vZc4id](#)

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