SPA AND HOT TUB REGULATIONS

City of Santa Clara
BUILDING INSPECTION DIVISION

TYPE OF SPA — IN-GROUND, HOT TUB

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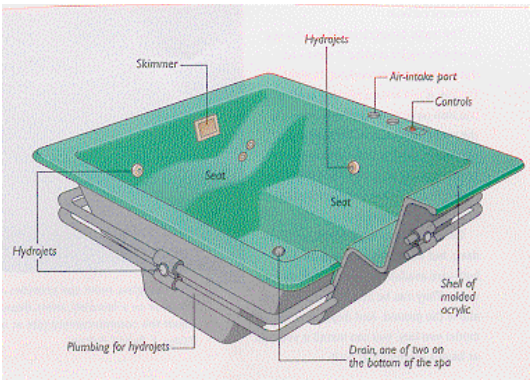
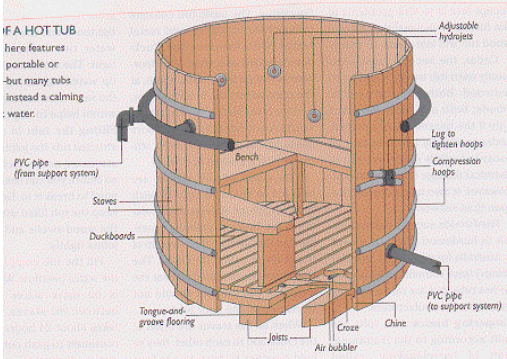
Special points of interest:

* Gas heaters to have accessible shut-off switch, no pilot light.
* Backflow preventer is required on one hose bib
* Disconnect for spa must be in sight and readily accessible and not less than 5 ft from spa
* Disconnect must be protected by Ground Fault Protector
* Anti-entrapment device required

ANATOMY OF AN IN-GROUND SPA

Recessed into the ground or set flush with the top of deck, an in-ground spa has the look of a permanent installation. The support equipment should be located close by, or you'll end up with higher energy costs transporting heated water the extra distance to the spa.



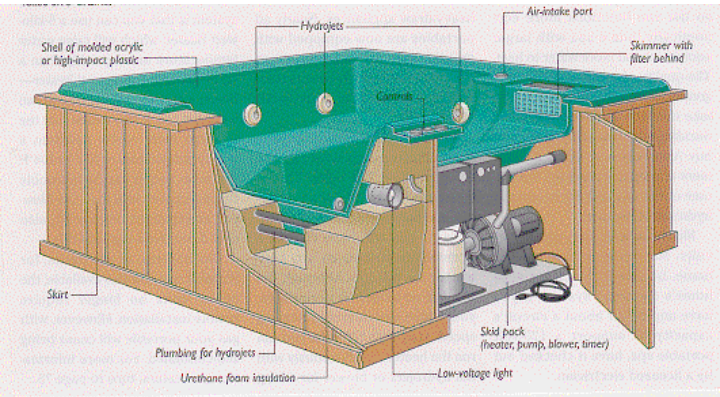


ANATOMY OF A HOT TUB

The tub shown here features jets — just like a portable or in-ground spa— but many tubs do not, offering instead a calming soak in still, hot water.

ANATOMY OF A PORTABLE SPA

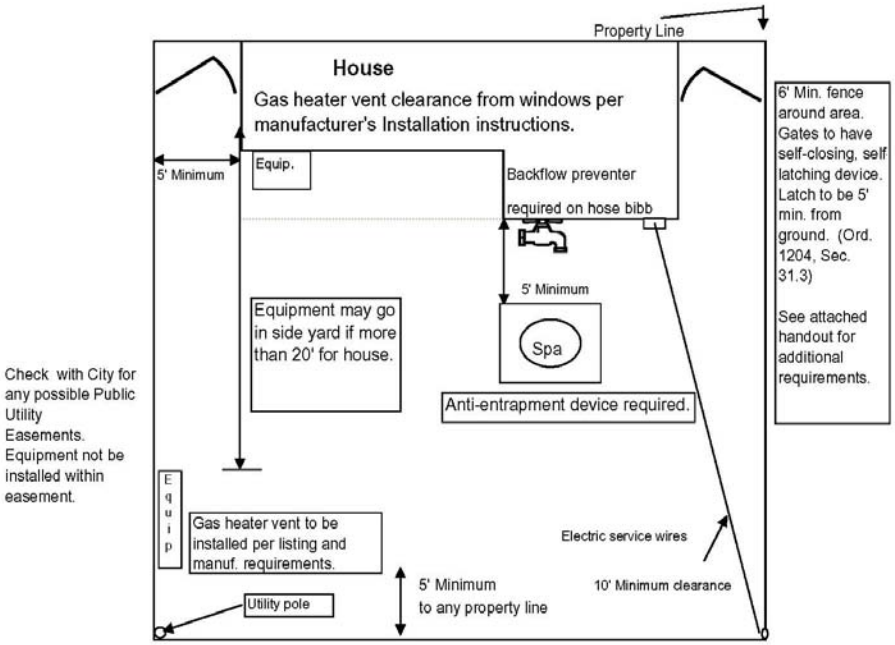
A fully self-contained unit, a portable spa is surrounded by a 'skirt," typically made of redwood, which hides the underside of the shell, the insulation, and the spa's support equipment. Access to the equipment is via a small door in the side of the skirt, which may be hidden by the steps that lead up to the spa. The bottom should feature at least two drains.



PERMITTED LOCATION (Ordinance 1204, Section 31-3)

On plans:

- Indicate spa location from fences and house in yard
- Spa equipment must meet Santa Clara Noise Ordinance 1588
- Spa and equipment must not be installed within Utility Easements
- Give location of spa in comparison to overhead Service Wires (Service wires must be a minimum 10 ft from spa water edge or 22.5 ft above water surface)
- Size of electric service and location in comparison to spa (Spa must be 5 ft away from any electrical equipment)
- Venting must be per listing & manufacturer's requirements.
- 6 ft minimum fence enclosure with self closing and latching gates (Latch height 5 ft min, 2 inch minimum opening to ground 4 inch minimum gap
- Anti-entrapment device required. Indicate on plans.



Check with City for any possible Public Utility Easements.
Equipment not be installed within easement.

LISTING REQUIREMENTS

- International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO)
- Underwriters Laboratories (UL) or approved Testing Lab listing
- (Listed Packaged Unit Cord and Plug connected or flexible conduit)

TITLE 24 CALIFORNIA ENERGY REQUIREMENTS (Section 114)

- Heating system certified by manufacturer to comply with Title 24, Sec. 114 requirements.
- Permanent weather proof plate or card that gives instructions for the energy efficient operation of the spa heater.
- Cover required for outdoor spas that have a heat pump or gas heater.
- Plumbed to allow for future addition of solar heating equipment.

BACKFLOW PREVENTER

- Backflow Preventer is required on one hose bibb.

GLAZING

- **Glazing in walls and fences used as the barrier for indoor and outdoor swimming pools and spas when all the following conditions are present: (1) The bottom edge of the glazing is less than 60 inches above the pool side of the glazing (2) The glazing is in within 5 feet of a swimming or spas outer edge.**

GAS HEATER

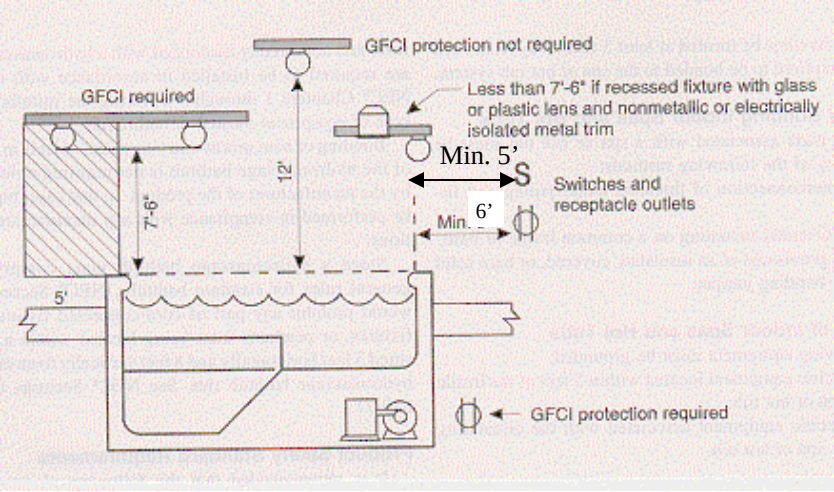
- **Gas heater shall be installed according to its listing and manufacturer's requirements.**

ELECTRICAL REQUIREMENTS (NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE)

- Spa or Hot tub is a Listed “Packaged Spa or Hot tub Assembly”
- Receptacles on the property must be located at least 6 ft from the inside walls of a spa and protected by Ground Fault Protector
- Emergency disconnect for spa must be clearly labeled in sight, readily accessible, not less than 5 feet from spa, and protected by ground-fault-interrupter.* (*Does not apply to single family dwellings.)
- Listed packaged spas or hot tubs shall be permitted to be cord and plug-connected with a cord no longer than 15 feet and rated 20 Amps or less and protected by a ground-fault circuit-interrupter
- Listed packaged spas and hot tubs that have integral GFIC protection for all electrical parts is not required to have the outlet GFIC protected
- All electrical equipment, service, switches, disconnects must be 5 feet away from spa or hot tub

INDOOR SPA OR HOT TUB

- Spa or hot tub maybe cord connected when rated 20 amps or less
- Receptacles may be in 10 feet of spa but at least 6 feet away. All receptacles within 10 feet must be GFIC protected, and one receptacle is required between 6 feet and 10 feet from spa
- Receptacles that provide power for spa or hot tub shall be GFIC
- Lighting fixtures, lighting outlets, ceiling fans that are located above a spa or hot tub, cannot be less than 7 ft 6 inches above maximum water level and must be protected by GFIC (12 feet or more not required to be GFIC less than 7 feet 6 inches all plastic fixtures and lens and GFIC protected)
- Wall switches are required to be located 5 feet horizontally from spa
- All metal parts with 5 feet of spa are to be grounded



INSTALLATION **OUTDOOR**

- Rigid metal conduit (6 inches buried) with thnn or thwn wire with a ground wire or PVC plastic conduit (18 inches buried)
- Inside spa liquid tight flexible conduit with proper connectors
- All equipment outside must be weatherproof and inside installation

City of Santa Clara
BUILDING INSPECTION DIVISION

Inspection Division
1500 Warburton Avenue
Santa Clara, CA 95050

Phone: 408-615-2440
Fax: 408-241-3823
Email: buildinginspection@ci.santa-clara.ca

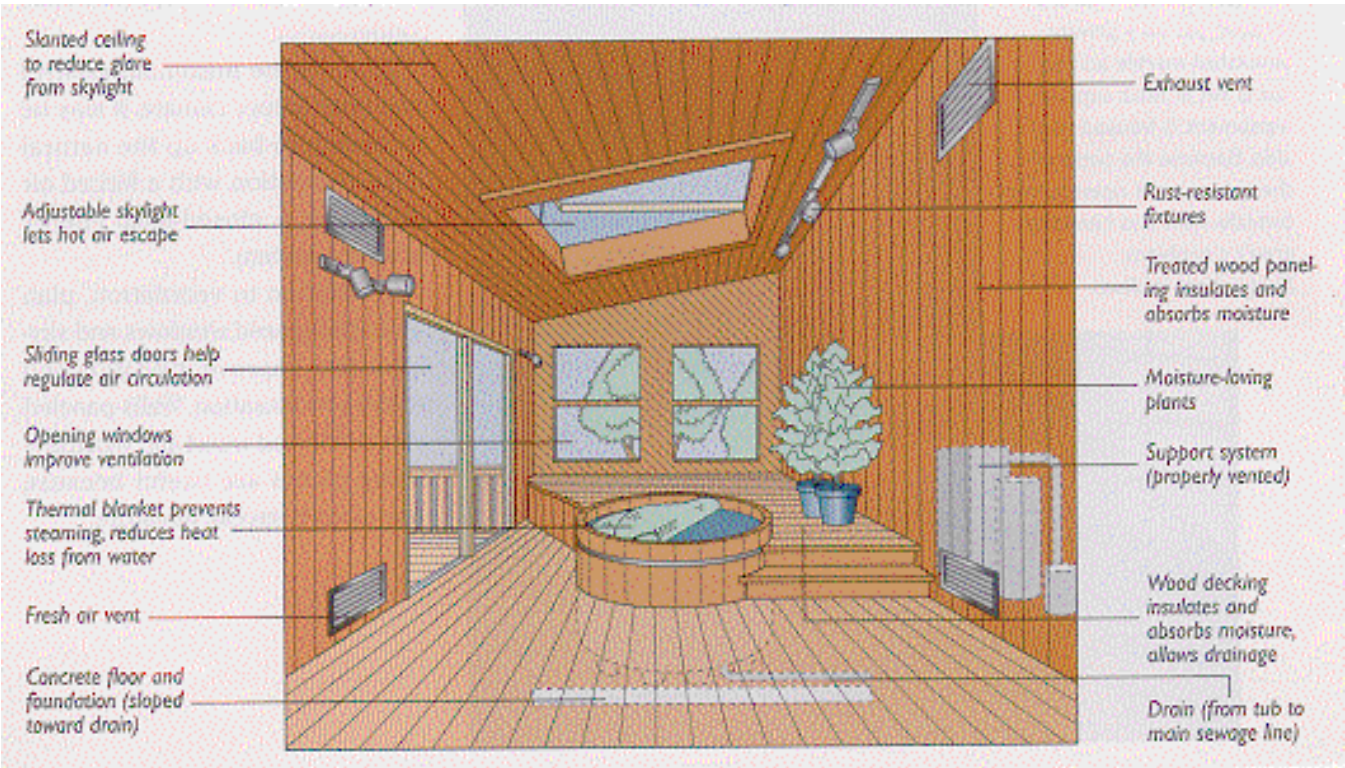
Building a better community"

The Building Inspection Division is dedicated to insure proper installation is achieve and state and local codes are met. By being well informed of codes and requirements, you are insuring a safe and healthy environment for you and your family. The Building Inspection Division, serving the community for over fifty years, strives at building a better community.

INDOOR SPA

A ROOM FOR AN INDOOR SPA

Under normal use spas create enormous vapor clouds; if yours is indoors you need to build a room around it that can manage a marine climate. In addition to wood, ceramic tile is often used as an indoor spa flooring material.



Revised: 5/6/2011