Outdoor Spa and Swimspa Pre-Delivery and Installation Guide



This Guide is designed to assist with planning the installation of a Catalina Spa or Swimspa and to give you the information you require to ensure a smooth and trouble free installation.

If you are considering using Catalina installation services we will require you to submit as much information as possible concerning the site and access as per the 'Check List' and 'site plan' as featured later in this guide.

Whether the spa is to be installed indoors or out we have compiled this guide of factors you will need to consider when determining your hot tub's location and installation.

Outdoor hot tub placement, such as decks, concrete or brick patios, is common However; the spa can be placed on any solid, uniform, level surface. Do not place your spa on grass or bare ground. If placing your spa on a wooden deck, be sure to consider its weight (filled with water) and the weight bearing capacity of your deck.

Ground Preparation

In order for your spa to function properly, it must be placed on a smooth, LEVEL, self-draining surface. If installing your spa/Swimspa indoors and either in or part in ground, the surface beneath and around the spa must be protected against water ingress and be self-draining. If not an automatic submersible pumps must be installed and wired separate from the spa or Swimspa

For outdoor installations, a concrete base of between 100mm and 150mm thickness should be laid with the base 50mm larger than your chosen spa dimensions. Other options for a spa base include an existing patio, bricks, slabs or blocks. You could use wooden decking but this must be constructed to support 500kg/m².

It is **not** recommended that your spa be sited directly onto grass or soil, as soft surfaces will have a tendency to settle resulting in an unlevelled spa.

When choosing your spa location, always allow for future access to the equipment compartment of the spa with sufficient clearance for servicing and draining. Warranty work could be affected if an engineer cannot access equipment.

If accessory equipment is to be installed on or around the spa e.g. cover lift, gazebo, steps, bar, planters etc. take this into consideration when measuring and finally placing the spa

You do not need a permanent water supply for a spa but you will need a suitable electrical supply. The Government introduced a new law in January 2005, which requires that most electrical work in UK households is only carried out by a competent person. This law means that Electrical safety requirements have been included in a new Part P of the Building Regulations. It is now against the law to have a new circuit installed in your home without having it inspected and tested to ensure it is Part P compliant.

When appointing an electrician check, that they are suitably qualified. Do not attempt to install hot tub electrics yourself if you **are not** a fully qualified electrician. The law states that anyone carrying out fixed electrical installations in households in England and Wales must ensure that electrical installations are:

a) Designed and installed to afford appropriate protection against mechanical and thermal damage, and so that they do not present electric shock and fire hazards to people
b) Suitably inspected and tested to verify that they meet the relevant equipment and installation standards.

This can be achieved in 2 ways:-
1. Appoint an electrical contractor who is registered with a competent person scheme.
2. Appoint someone who is not Part P registered but contact your local authority Building Control Department first. The work will have to be inspected and tested by your local authority before it can be signed off. They will charge for this service.

Either way you will receive a Part P certificate after the hot tub electrical supply work is completed this will need to be kept on file and presented if you ever sell your house as part of the new home sellers packs.

Catalina Spa and Swimspa Electrical Installation Requirements

Your Catalina spa or Swimspa is designed to operate at 220 volts single phase 50 Hz power supply (protected by a 30mA RCB); in most instances models can run on a 3 Phase supply. Please contact us to check the compatibility.

Typical power supply by model

- A 20 Amp electrical supply for **single-pump** systems
- A 30 Amp electrical supply for **dual-pump and triple-pump** systems
- A 40 Amp electrical supply for **triple-pump** systems
- A 69 or 95 Amp electrical supply for **Five Pumps Swimspa** systems

It should be noted that a significant reduction in power can be achieved by installing a Catalina ECO Heatpump

IMPORTANT NOTE: All electrical connections to the spa must be undertaken by a qualified electrician. **NOTE:** Do not attempt to use any other electrical equipment on this supply - a separate breaker and a dedicated supply from your electrical panel is required.

It will be necessary to have your electrician in attendance when your spa is delivered and commissioned.

Catalina Spa, Celebration and Olympic Series Party Spa, Swimspa and Swimtrainer installation Guide

Installing a Catalina Celebration, Olympic Swimspa or Swimtrainer is very straight forward but we recommend a little forward planning this will ensure your installation will proceed with the minimum of fuss. “There are very few things that take such little time to plan and install yet will bring so many years of healthy fun and enjoyment.”
These are the things you will need to consider;

1. Do you intend to install above ground, part or full in ground or indoors and will it fit into the area you desire? If you are planning to install indoors you need to consider heating and dehumidification – We can give more information advice and suitable equipment specification (Please call our service team).
2. Site access – Can you get the delivery vehicle to the site? Will you need a crane and can a crane get access?
3. Suitable base
4. Suitable power supply
5. Access to the Swimspa/Swimtrainer
6. Cover removal

1. Location
Please give careful thoughts to the eventual position of your preferred model and take into consideration; the location to your house (and the neighbours), privacy, noise, wind direction, safety, (overhead cables), access, site drainage, fill and empty.
If your Swimspa model is to be installed in an enclosure either stand alone or attached to your home you must consider the effects of humidity on the structure of the building. We have over 20 years experience with all aspects of indoor Swimspa and Swimtrainer

installations and will be pleased to give you professional advice and recommendations. We offer our own range of humidity control systems specially designed for indoor Swimspas.

2. Delivery/Access

The most important thing to consider is the access route that the delivery vehicle will use to get to your home and if the same vehicle is to be used for off loading, can it get adjacent to the prepared base leaving sufficient room (in the case of a Hiab) to extend the support legs. Most Hiab cranes will reach 6M to 9M. This is totally dependent on the weight of your preferred Swimspa model.

If a Hiab is not suitable or the location is less accessible then a crane will be require. It is important to get the recommendation of a qualified local crane hire company this should be in writing and always check insurance terms in the event of a problem.

3. Ground preparation, base or below ground pit

The Swimspa/Swimtrainer will require a suitable base. In some instances it is possible to place the unit into an existing patio or hard standing, providing it is again flat and level and very important it must be on a well compacted sub base. Any un-evenness must be corrected.

The majority of installations will require a minimum 150mm concrete slab and depending on the ground condition we would recommend a layer of steel mesh. Always ensure that there is a minimum of 50mm of concrete covering above, below and to the sides of the steel. The new slab must be flat and level and have good perimeter drainage.

If you intend to install either full or partial below ground then again the base must be concrete as detailed above with side walls to the desired height. If the side walls are to support any ground/earth then it is essential that the correct construction technique is used this might require the walls and floor to be structurally tied. **NEVER BACKFILL AGAINST THE CABINET**

If the surround of the Swimspa/Trainer forms an enclosure to the pit then it is a further recommendation to provide good ventilation to the air chamber and model structure. This is for the long term benefit for the equipment, electrics and structure. It is advisable to ensure the vents are rodent or insect proof. Any decking or surround must be fitted with floor access for maintenance

IMPORTANT – the new pit must be fully self-draining or be fitted with an automatic sump pump wired to its own power supply and ideally not the same supply as the Swimspa/Trainer.

The pit dimensions must be designed to accommodate the preferred model and to accommodate future servicing of the equipment. We recommend a gap of 150mm around all sides the end where the equipment is located for this should be 1000mm. Marathon dual zone models the access area should be further extended at the spa end down both long sides by 1000mm. Remember in the future your Swimspa might need maintenance so always allow access.

If you are in any doubt we recommend you seek qualified help in designing and building your pit to ensure it cannot flood with water and is structurally sound

Important - Any decking or floor surround finish should not pose a trip or entrapment hazard.

4. Electrical Supply
Your Catalina Celebration and Olympic series Swimspa/Swimtrainer will require a suitable single or three phase power supply (Please check model specification for correct size, see above). As stated the supply must be installed by a qualified electrician in accordance with current legislation.
It is a recommendation that the supply can be isolated locally for any future service and maintenance. Once the work has been completed your electrician should provide you with a compliance and test certificate.
The electrics must not get wet, if you are in any doubt we recommend you seek qualified help in designing and building your pit to ensure it cannot flood with water and is structurally sound.

5. Service and maintenance of your Swimspa/Swimtrainer
The equipment and control systems of your Swimspa/Swimtrainer will require periodic service and maintenance and therefore must be accessible. All of our products are quality controlled and undertake rigorous factory testing. If the unit is being installed into a location where full access to all sides is restricted we recommend the unit is run up and water tested on site before installation, this is to ensure no damage has occurred during transportation, lifting or maneuvering. If in the event any future warranty/service work is required it is the responsibility of the client to ensure access to all components and plumbing. We use LED lights due to their long life expectancy and low cost of running however if one should fail service/replacements can only be fitted with access between the Swimspa shell and cabinet. Warranty work can only be completed if full access is available.

6. General bather access to the Swimspa/Swimtrainer
For above ground models we supply a range of cabinet colour matching 4 tread steps with side safety rails. For below ground or partial below ground installations we supply surface mount grab rails.

7. Covers and cover Lifting Device
We supply all our models with a rigid insulation/Safety cover. This might not be necessary or practical for some indoor installations. In these instances we can supply a floating insulation cover that can be used in conjunction with a portable or fixed roller.

For below ground or partial below ground installations and you intend to use a cover lifter please check the recommendations of your preferred cover lifter as some models require 600mm for the arms to operate. We offer a selection of cover lifters please call for more information.

8. Indoor installation
When installing a spas or Swimspa indoors you must consider the potential damage moisture can cause to the building fabric caused by surface water evaporation when the spa or Swimspa is uncovered. Various methods can be used to control this from ventilation (extract), dehumidifiers or heat recovery ventilation. We offer our own specially designed systems please contact us for more information

9. General
Other factors to consider: Non slip access and surround, all year access, drainage, steps, lighting, chemical storage, maintenance, bather rules, safety but most of all plan and enjoy the fun times you will have.

Check List

Checking Suitable Access and factors for choosing the location of a spa or Swimspa will help with the installation

1. Check road, lane and drive is suitable for the delivery vehicle
2. Check the route from the delivery point to the proposed spa base.
3. Is there sufficient height and width? Including paths and gates.
4. Is there any overhead obstructions? – cables, guttering, porches, gate over hangs, eave overhangs and trees
5. Is there any surface or below ground obstacles that could be damaged as the spa is being put into position
6. Will a crane be needed?
7. Walk the route with a tape or something the same length as the dimensions of the spa
8. Could the delivery vehicle cause damage to the clients drive or garden?
9. Draw a sketch of the delivery and access route. Provide as many dimensions as possible.
10. Check the final position of the spa and that any loungers are facing the preferred direction
11. Check the final position of the Swimspa river jets so the swimmer is facing the preferred direction
12. Ensure that access is sufficient for future servicing/warranty of any parts and components (moving a spa or lifting decking etc is excluded from warranty work).
13. If a coverlifter is being fitted ensure sufficient space is left to enable the cover to be removed (minimum 600mm)
14. Proximity – although the spa is very quiet in filter mode care should be given to its location to windows living areas etc
15. Neighbours – consider again the spas location so as not to upset neighbours.
16. Privacy
17. Safe, easy and practical access throughout the year
18. Overhead obstacles such as power lines, cables, trees etc. Remember the height of the Proswim system for indoor use
19. Surface and underground obstacles such as drainage, cables, manholes
20. Indoor installations will require dehumidification (call for details of our unique system options)
21. Be prepared to undertake a general Site Risk Assessment if the installation should require.
22. NEVER TAKE RISKS!

Catalina offers an installation commissioning service. We will require all of the points in the above Check List to be listed and commented on and accompanied with a sketch of the site (see form) showing any critical dimensions and photographs of the access route and end position of the spa or Swimspa.

Pre Delivery Inspection Form

To be completed in conjunction with the check list

Customer Name:……Date:…….

Address:……

……Post Code:…….

Model:……

Approximate Delivery Date…… i.e. Winter/ Summer Ground Conditions

Sketch – Please draw a site plan showing access and final location. Include measurements where necessary. Use the reverse of this page for any other additional information. Remember to comment/answer the check list and send to send images.

Power Supply "by others" location agreed: Yes/No Show in sketch

Prepared by:……

Company (if applicable):……

Please return when completed to sales@catalinaspas.co.uk or fax 01980 611031