

The Base

The base of the spa supports the spa and is an important part of the structure. As the spa's foundation, it has to be able to support several thousand pounds without falling apart.

And what about insulation? Heat travels to cold. If the base of a spa is sitting in direct contact with the ground, the heat will want to travel into the ground and the efficiency of the spa is compromised. This phenomenon is called thermal creep. It is important to have the shell off the ground and well insulated to prevent thermal creep.

This brochure describes what you need to know to make sure you purchase a spa with a base that will prevent water wicking up into the insulation, prevent thermal creep, and maintain its integrity for as long as you own the spa.

Clearwater Spas

Dealer Locator

What's the base made of?

Spa Sense

PRODUCT INFORMATION GUIDE



TEL:

Structure

The bottom, or base, is the most structurally important part of a hot tub. The base is supposed to support the weight of the spa and also help protect the spa from rot, bugs, and even heat loss. When you think of the base as the foundation of the spa, you can make a direct correlation to the value a foundation brings to home construction. A house frame can not sit directly on the ground because the framing would structurally fail within a few short years. Don't expect anything less with a spa.

It is common knowledge that wood has a limited life expectancy, especially when in contact with moisture. A spa placed in an outside setting is subjected to *lots* of moisture. Are you willing to limit the investment you are going to make on a spa by choosing one with structural components that will not last?



7 year-old spa with dry rot beginning to show, This spa had a thin plastic base over pressure treated 2x4 frame.

Spa bases built with plastics and not wood will last a long time because water does not cause them to break down structurally. Don't you think that your investment should last more than the 7 to 10 years, which is what you can expect from a traditional wood-base spa?

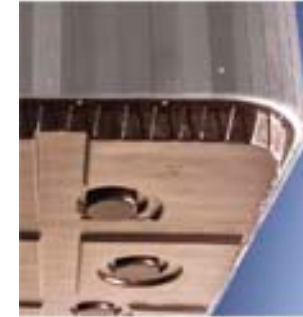
A properly built spa base will allow complete insulation under the spa shell. If the shell is just sitting on the ground or on a 2x4 support, the cold of the ground will draw the heat out of the hot tub.



7 year old spa on pressure treated 2x4 base. The skirt is fine but the base is rotting from the inside out.

A properly built spa base will also keep moisture from intruding into the spa cabinet. Moisture brings molds, mildew, and other nasty things to the spa equipment, and that is just not conducive to personal health nor the long-term health of your spa cabinet and equipment.

A properly built spa base should form the structural foundation of the spa. If the spa base is moisture-resistant, insulated, and structurally sound, your spa investment will last for lifetimes. That's smart investing!



Clearwater Spas
Dura Floor plastic
base with pillar
supports.

"It has been my personal vision over the past 29 years to design and build spas that re-define the spa industry."

Ronald Clearwater