



Development Services Department  
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## Residential Spa and Hot Tub Requirements

### **Definition:**

Spa or Hot Tub - A hydromassage pool, or tub for recreational or therapeutic use, not located in health care facilities, designed for immersion of users, and usually having a filter, heater, and motor-driven blower. It may be installed indoors or outdoors, on the ground or supporting structure, or in the ground or supporting structure.

### **Location:**

There are no written regulations that control the location of portable spas and hot tubs placed on the property; however, consideration should be given to the placement regarding the neighbor's property and the possible affects the spa or hot tub could have on the neighbor's privacy.

### **Electrical:**

Electrical installations at spas and hot tubs shall comply with the provisions of the current California Electrical Code.

One or more means to simultaneously disconnect all ungrounded conductors shall be provided for all utilization equipment other than lighting. Each means shall be readily accessible and within sight from its equipment and shall be located at least 5' horizontally from the inside walls of a pool, spa, or hot tub unless separated from the open water by a permanently installed barrier.

All metals within 5' horizontally of the inside walls of the spa or hot tub and 12' vertically of maximum water level of pool to be bonded.

The equipotential common bonding grid shall extend under paved and unpaved surfaces for 3' horizontally beyond the inside walls of an in ground exterior spa.

### **Additional Safety and Barrier Requirements:**

A spa or hot tub installed outdoors shall comply with the same provisions as defined for pools that would otherwise apply to pools installed outdoors.

Spas or hot tubs with locking type covers complying with ASTM-ES 13-89 are exempt from the barrier and safety requirements section of the California Building Code.

Safety glazing is required when the bottom edge of the glazing is less than 60" above the walking surface on the spa side of the glazing and when the glazing is within 5' horizontally of a pool, hot tub, or spa water's edge.

**Energy Efficiency Standards: Pool and Spa Equipment**

The heating system must be equipped with an on/off switch that turns the heater on and off without the need to change the thermostat setting.

Pool and Spa heaters shall not have continuously burning pilot lights.

A 36" minimum length of plumbing shall be installed between the filter and heater to allow for the possible addition of solar heating equipment.

Heated outdoor spas must be equipped with a manufactured pool cover (to reduce heat loss) unless 60% of the annual heating energy is from site solar or recovered energy.

A time clock which allows the circulation pump to run in the off peak electric demand period.