



HOT TUBS ARE GREAT. HIGH ENERGY BILLS ARE NOT.

HERE ARE A FEW TIPS TO MAKE YOUR HOT TUB MORE ENERGY EFFICIENT.

Hot tubs can help soothe sore muscles, relieve pain and reduce stress – at least until the energy bill arrives! Hot tubs must stay hot to work, and that means they must use a fairly large amount of energy. But there are ways you can keep your energy costs down.

CHECK THE INSULATION

Good insulation significantly improves any hot tub's energy efficiency.

If you're in the market for a new hot tub, make sure the tub's insulation is continuous, without gaps, and that it entirely covers the hot water pipe. If you've already got a hot tub, use spray-on foam insulation to fill any gaps or cracks.

INSTALL A RIGID INSULATING COVER

Heat rises, so your hot tub cover can have an enormous impact on your heating costs.

Floating insulation covers work well for pools, but for your hot tub and its hotter temperature, choose a rigid insulation cover instead. It should have an insulation value of at least RSI 2.1 (R12) to keep heat loss to a minimum.

Replace your hot tub cover if it gets heavier over time. A heavier cover means that it's taking on moisture and losing its insulation value.

SET YOUR TEMPERATURE TO 39°C

Set your hot tub's temperature no higher than 39°C (102°F), and lower if you can. A degree or two lower will really save energy (and money!) over time, without harming your enjoyment.

HOT TUB VS. SPA

Technically, the term "hot tub" refers to a freestanding wooden tub, while "spa" means an acrylic or fibreglass mould that can be installed either above or directly into the ground.

For most people today, however, "hot tub" means both spa and hot tub, and that's how we're using it here.

MAKE SURE YOUR PUMP IS ENERGY-EFFICIENT

No matter what kind of pump your hot tub comes with—single-speed, two-speed or a combination of both—make sure it is energy efficient. It should have an efficiency level of at least 82.

If your hot tub is old, look into replacing your pump (and your heater, if necessary) with a newer, more efficient model.

CLEAN YOUR FILTERS

Finally, dirty filters can strain your equipment and cause your hot tub to use more energy than it should. Clean and replace your filters often.

USE YOUR CONTROLS

Today's digital hot tub control systems can be programmed to change the water temperature up or down at pre-set times.

For example, you can set your controls to warm the tub water to 39°C in the evening between 6 and 9 p.m., when you normally use the tub, and drop it back down throughout the rest of the day. (Most hot tub manufacturers refer to this temperature control feature as their "economy" setting. Check your owner's manual or ask your local dealer for more details.) If you're going away on vacation, you can also use your controls to lower the temperature while you're gone.

If your hot tub does not have a digital control system, consider upgrading your equipment.

DO NOT TURN OFF YOUR PUMP!

Because harmful bacteria can grow in stagnant water, we do not recommend that you turn off your pump to save energy. Keep your pump turned on twice a day for at least four to six hours to keep your water healthy.

It is, however, quite safe to turn off your heater between uses, because cooler water is not a major factor in the growth of bacteria.

If you won't be using your tub for a long time, you can shut down both pump and heater—but remember to add high doses of disinfectant before you use it again.

FOR MORE ENERGY-SAVING TIPS FOR INSIDE AND OUTSIDE YOUR HOME, CONTACT US:

Lower Mainland: 604 431 9463
Elsewhere in BC: 1 877 431 9463
bchydro.com/powersmart