

Modern Luxury

In Our Lives

Advances In Technology Turn Hot Tubs Into Spas

(NAPSA)—Here's hot news: Today's hot tubs (now generally referred to as spas) are considered a quantum leap from tubs of old. Early hot tubs—which resembled oversized bathtubs spewing bubbles—have given way to highly sophisticated spas that provide full-body hydrotherapy, yet are more energy efficient and easier to maintain than ever before.

“People might not consider a spa a high tech item, but an incredible amount of technology goes into the creation of today's spas,” said Jeff Kurth, former chairman of the National Spa and Pool Institute. Kurth points out just a few of the advanced features of modern spas.

Water-jet technology

It's not uncommon to see spas with over 50 jets and an array of seating positions targeting specific muscles and joints. One model Kurth's company, Marquis Spas, manufactures features special arm rests for carpal tunnel therapy and a deep-seat alcove to cradle the user in a nook of 19 powerful jets.

Advanced filtration systems

Many spas today feature ozonators, to reduce the amount of chemicals needed to keep water clean. They convert oxygen (O₂) to ozone (O₃), which latches onto bacteria, killing it.

Energy efficiency

The cost to operate a spa is less than you may think. Most feature solid foam insulation, significantly reducing heat loss. Other features, such as energy saving filtration and heat modes, highly



Photo: Marquis Spa-Coastal Series.

efficient pumps and thermal spa covers, keep operating costs down.

Low maintenance materials

Today's spas are tough and durable. Inner shells are usually made of acrylic reinforced with fiberglass. Synthetic exteriors often formed to match the color and texture of wood, require no stain or weatherproofing and are more resistant to moisture, spa chemicals and sunlight.

Today's spas are more durable, consume less energy and require less maintenance. Prices range from about \$2,500 to \$10,000, depending on size and features. Kurth says spa sales have increased over the past two years. “In today's fast-paced, high-stress world, people are finding spas a source of relaxation and renewal in their own homes and backyards,” he explained.

For brand, price and feature comparisons, you can request a free Spa and Hot Tub Planning Guide at www.spasearch.org.