



How to Take Your Hot Tub Out of Use (C21)

Hot tubs are great fun to use all year round and so they do not have to be taken out of use in the winter. While outdoor swimming pools are typically winterised, you can still be using your hot tub, to enjoy the night sky and breathe in the crisp, fresh air, as the warm water massages away the day's stresses and strains.

However, if you are intending to stop using the hot tub for an extended period of time, either during the winter (or at any other time of the year) then the following tips should ensure that it is safe and the hot tub can then be prepared at a later date to be used again, when you are ready.

Make sure that you use a 'system flush', which is a chemical designed to clean away any debris that may be in the pipe. It is a good idea to use a proprietary spa plumbing 'system flush' prior to draining. It is important to shock dose the spa with at least 50ppm of chlorine or bromine and maintain that 50ppm for an hour. When draining the water out of the hot tub, don't forget to remove the drain plugs from the pump(s) so that the pumps do not freeze. The plugs should be loosely fitted back to still allow any water to escape, but not to allow any wildlife to get into the pipework. Remove as much water from the pipework, jets, blowers and heaters as you can, with a wet and dry vacuum cleaner, so they don't freeze and get damaged.

You will also need to remove any filters and pillows (and clean and then dry and store them safely) to avoid them getting damaged.

It will be a good idea to cover the hot tub with a tarpaulin, or similar sheeting, as standing water on the hot tub cover itself (from rain or snow) could leak into the hot tub and this could freeze and cause problems. It may be worth periodically checking the hot tub while it is out of action to ensure that there are no problems arising.

Where there is any amount of snow building up on the hot tub, it is worth brushing this off the tarpaulin to reduce the weight.

You may prefer to seek the help of a professional company to undertake the de-commissioning of your hot tub and BISHTA has a list of members that will be able to assist you.



When it is time to re-commission the hot tub, you should read and follow the advice in BISHTA's consumer factsheet on 'How to Re-Commission Your Hot Tub'.

Where can I find out more?

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