



# **Installation Recommendations**

## **Preplumb Spa Shells**

**Sunbelt Spas Recommends**  
**Qualified Professional Spa Installers for Inground Applications**

### **Planning For Installation –**

When planning for installation of a preplumb shell you need to consider many factors. For the best water pressure make sure that your installation of the equipment provides the shortest and most direct distance from the spa shell to the equipment. You should plan for piping to have as few 90 degree turns as possible as this decreases the water pressure significantly.

Equipment should be placed on a solid surface in order to ensure equipment does not move after installation. Concrete slabs are recommended and reasonable access should be considered in the installation process.

Standard distance from spa to equipment is 20' or less for all Sunbelt Spas standard preplumb equipment recommendations. In cases where the distance exceeds the 20' standard you will need to be sure that Sunbelt Spas has provided equipment changes based on your measurements.

### **Excavating the Site –**

Sunbelt Spas Shells should be supported in all weight bearing locations with level surface including footwell, seats, and the spa. Excavating the ground where the shell will be placed should be done with basic shape structure considerations plus 4" in order to allow for pipe access. Most installations plan for 2/3 below the ground shell position and 1/3 out of the ground shell installation.

When excavating the trenches for pipes consideration for freeze levels and local code requirements should always be foremost. The trenches for piping and conduit pathway should be as direct as possible with consideration of water flow loss with 90 degree turns and should not use reducers if at all possible.

### **Setting the Spa Shell –**

When setting the spa shell into your excavated hole you must insure proper leveling of the spa. This is the foundation for the rest of the installation and should be ensured to be level before further steps are taken. The foundation area around the spa shell should be set with masonry sand and backfilled with water to ensure proper setting of the masonry sand and leveling of the shell.

With tub set and level the plumbing can be installed to the 2" PVC stub out provided by Sunbelt Spas. Each of the lines will be marked with instructional color coded labels to ensure proper plumbing for the installation. These labels will match the preplumb diagram processed with the spa order and may contain additional information based on your specific engineering.

*Labels include –*

*Yellow – From Blower Line*

*Orange – From Heater return of circ pump or 2 spd maintenance pump*

*Blue – To Filter Line suction of circ pump or 2 spd maintenance pump*

*Red – To Jets Line return from therapy pump*

*Green – To Therapy Pump suction*

### **Pre-Testing Spa –**

Prior to placing spa inground take the pipes, extend and put into spa place in yard in a flat space and fill at least to the height of the depth of install to insure no leaks low in spa.

### **Plumbing Process -**

Plumb your lines from the equipment location to the spa location using 2" pipe with minimal usage of 90 degree elbows and ensuring these lines stay clear of debris during the plumbing process. Each line

Plumb also your conduit lines for the electrical and tubing lines for pneumatic switches, ozonator etc. in the same trenches. These lines should be protected with conduit to ensure longevity of product usage.

### **Backfilling the Spa –**

Backing filling the spa shell surround ensures the solidity of the installation and provides adequate structural support to ensure long term usage of the hot tub. Backfilling with masonry sand should include washing and packing sand. It is imperative you fill the tub with water for the backfilling process. This ensures the weight of the shell filled presses into the backfilling and creates solid foundation of the structure. You must ensure the customer understands the draining the spa after this point needs to be done in increments that ensure there is always at least 1/2 water in the spa. In cases where you remove all water the spa could "float" out of the installation resulting in damage to shell, plumbing and installation.

### **Testing The Spa -**

Following the completion of plumbing the equipment it is important to test all equipment at this point prior to finalizing installation and having to go back to fix issues. Proper testing would include filling the spa and testing all components. A 48 hour watertest prior to filling pipe trenches applying the decking materials surrounding the spa is highly recommended and provides adequate time to ensure the lines are clear and all equipment functions properly.

### **Finalizing the Installation –**

Following the water test and ensuring all equipment functions properly the trenches can be filled, the final backfilling of the spa and the ground level structure of concrete, decking or tile can be constructed. Ensure under the lip of the spa does not have any structural support with your decking or finishing materials. Proper drainage of the surrounding materials should be considered and prepare the area for hot tub cover use as well. Be sure all air controls have adequate ventilation. Acrylic hot tubs should be covered anytime the hot tub is not in use. This also keeps out leaves, ensures safety of children, and protects the acrylic surface.

### **The Final Step –**

The final step in any inground spa installation is to sit back and enjoy the hot tub. From our family to yours we hope your Sunbelt Spas Inground Spa brings you as many years of satisfaction as we have had manufacturing them.