

# **WOOD-FIRED HOT TUB INSTRUCTIONS & TIPS**

*There is an art to using a wood-fired hot tub that can take practice.*

*You don't have time for that, so included here are not only explicit, step-by-step instructions, but some helpful tips you will definitely be glad to know. Please read them all and share with everyone using the tub to prevent injury or damage.*

1. **FILL FIRST!** Close the drain valve on the far side of the deck by turning the handle perpendicular to the pipe and **fill tub before lighting fire**- the water should be at least two inches above bottom of chimney collar (the minimum fill line is marked in black). *If the stove is operated below the minimum water level, warping, melting and cracking will occur.*
2. **LIGHT:** After tub is filled, use newspaper and kindling (or small starter log) to build a fire at the rear of the firebox below the chimney. Continue adding small pieces and move to larger pieces until the fire is established. Be sure to only use dry wood and Only load wood as high as the two pipes that run through the stove.
  - Keep the stove lid open 4 inches until a well established fire is burning.
  - Once well established, leave the stove lid open about 1.5 inches (aligning it with the internal baffle which allows air to flow from the top of the firebox to the bottom) for optimal draft.
  - Do not close the stove lid, as the fire won't burn without oxygen.
  - Do not burn pressure treated lumber, wood with nails, magazines or cardboard with tape on it.
3. **HEAT:** The tub should take 2-4 hours to heat with fresh well water. Heat time will vary depending on your water temperature and the temperature outside. Place the silver insulation provided on top of the water to retain heat (in small storage compartment at end of Tiny House). Stop adding wood once the water reaches 98 degrees and allow the water to come up to 102-104 F (standard hot tubbing temperature) on its own. Use a paddle to stir the water for more evenly distributed heat. If the water exceeds 104 degrees, wait for it to cool off or use cold water from a hose, pointing the hose away from the stove to prevent the cold water from shocking it.

***!Do not touch the chimney, Firebox or lid (except wood handle) while hot!***
4. **MAINTAIN** your desired hot tubbing temperature by adding a piece of wood every couple hours. With the use of lids, the tub can hold its temperature for days at a time with just an armful of wood a day. If you want to keep the temperature high, cover the water with the silver insulation and place the lids on top to retain heat and keep debris out. Add a piece of wood every few hours.
5. **TEST** the temperature with a hand before jumping in! Water could be way too *hot!*
6. **DRAIN:** *Ensure fire is completely extinguished* before draining Tub to avoid cracking firebox. To drain, open the valve on far side of deck by turning the handle parallel to the drain-pipe.

## **TIPS YOU WANT TO KNOW**

- **Start Early!** Under ideal conditions the tub takes a minimum of 3 hours to heat but this time can easily get extended if, for example, someone accidentally closes the fire-box lid and your fire goes out; or you get distracted grilling dinner and forget to add wood for awhile. Starting the process early mitigates the effect of any set-back and reduces the possibility of failing to achieve your desired temperature by the time you are ready to soak.
- It is ok to **Light the tub the night before-** ie if you plan to use the tub Saturday, you can fill and light it Friday evening and let it warm over night. The fire will burn down to coals or go out completely but it will have significantly brought up the water temperature and put you ahead of the game for Saturday. This is a good idea if you are worried about the time commitment.
- Use a small **fire-starter log** to help easily start your kindling.
- The wood you choose can significantly impact your experience. Seasoned hardwoods such as oak, maple, or birch are ideal as they burn longer and produce consistent heat. Avoid softwoods like pine or cedar, which burn quickly and may create excessive smoke. Also, **the drier the wood, the better.**
- Keep the fire low once you reach your goal temperature (between 101-104F) so as not to over-heat the water. **If it does get too hot**, drain some and add fresh water from the hose (aiming the hose away from the firebox so it does not crack).
- Consider generating some dopamine by punctuating your hot soak with a **Cold plunge** in the creek! (Wear shoes when walking up and down the bank to the creek in case of sharp rocks or broken glass)
- **Do not use bath additives** (epsom salts, soaps, body washes) as this tub drains directly into the creek and even products labeled as biodegradable and eco-friendly can disrupt the delicate ecosystem and harm aquatic life.



# HOT TUB SAFETY

## Fire and Burn Prevention

A wood fired hot tub comes with inherent fire risk. Keep flammable objects a minimum 10ft away from the chimney and use caution not to touch exposed aluminum surfaces of chimney, firebox or lid while they are hot. \_\_\_\_\_

## Temperature

Safe hot tubbing temperature is considered 102-104 degrees Fahrenheit. **Read the temperature on the thermometer BEFORE hopping in to confirm water is not dangerously hot.** \_\_\_\_\_

## Occupancy

The tub is intended to seat 4 adults. Do not exceed this occupancy as the part of the stove above water and the chimney can cause burns with contact and the deck has a maximum weight capacity. \_\_\_\_\_

## Supervision

Always supervise children around or in the hot tub as there is risk of bodily injury such as burns and drowning. Always use the hard top lid when there's water in the tub. Do not allow anyone to sit on hot tub lid or deck railing beside hot tub. Always remain within an arms reach of kids near hot tub. \_\_\_\_\_

## Get In & Out Carefully

Be mindful that you could slip and hurt yourself when getting in or out. The hot tub seats have a gap behind them where your foot could slip. Getting out too quickly can also cause light headedness. Rise slowly with a firm grip on the side of the tub to avoid losing your balance and falling or grabbing onto the hot stove pipe. \_\_\_\_\_

## Read & Follow Hot Tub Instructions

You will be far more successful with the Hot Tub if you read and follow the one page Instructions and Tips. Initial here that you have received & read 'Hot Tub Instructions & Tips' \_\_\_\_\_

## Reduce the risk of Injury or Drowning

1. Never leave the tub unattended without securing it with the lid. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Do not use the hot tub under the influence of alcohol or drugs. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Do not touch Stove Pipe, Firebox Lid or top, when hot. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Always check temperature before hopping in. \_\_\_\_\_
5. NEVER sit on deck railing with feet in tub. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Always completely fill tub before starting fire. \_\_\_\_\_

I have read, contemplated and committed myself to the upholding of all the above very wise rules. I will be safe and responsible while using the hot tub then leave a 5-star review raving about the experience.

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Signature

Date