Hot Tub Surround Build Sheet

Frame a custom cedar-toned deck with hidden storage and seamless clearances.

Grab your cut list and clearance chart to build a beautiful, self-supporting spa surround. These spatial requirements ensure a perfect fit without voiding your warranty.



Crucial Spa Clearances

18-24 in
Lifter sets deck depth behind spa

1 in
Reveal gap at cabinet edge

16 in
On-center spacing for framing studs

1/8 in
Drip kerf depth under cap

1/2 in
Distance from edge for drip kerf

Max 7 in
Vertical riser height for step

Min 11 in
Tread depth for wet bare feet

1/4 in
Drainage gap between composite treads

Cleat-hung pump panel

Hang your equipment access panel on heavy-duty French cleats. It makes popping it off for quick filter changes incredibly simple without ruining the seamless look with visible screws.

Surround Build Sequence

1. **Frame self-supporting base** Build a freestanding skeleton using pressure-treated lumber. Never attach a ledger directly to the spa cabinet.
2. **Protect wooden structure** Roll waterproof acrylic joist tape over framing members and brush copper naphthenate on exposed cut ends.
3. **Install composite cladding** Use hidden clip systems for pristine fascia boards. Leave a gap near the bottom for ventilation.
4. **Detail the cap ledge** Reinforce mitered interior joints with galvanized steel brackets and ease the sharp inner rim with sandpaper.
5. **Build step towel bin** Add exterior-grade stainless steel hinges to the tread and line the interior with waterproof silicone caulk.

Surround Lumber Cut List

Find your row: **Your spa size**

Your spa size	Your pick	Why
7 ft Square	32 framing, 18 fascia, 4 cap	Fits a compact patio footprint
7.5 ft Square	36 framing, 20 fascia, 4 cap	Standard mid-size patio layout
8 ft Square	40 framing, 22 fascia, 5 cap	Large entertaining space footprint

Pre-Build Clearance Checks

- ◯ Verify the concrete foundation has a level 4-inch base for alignment.
- ◯ Check local electrical code for GFCI subpanel line-of-sight requirements.
- ◯ Map a clear path under decking for the heavy 240V conduit.
- ◯ Check the cover lifter swing arc against any nearby patio railings.

Project Notes

Enjoy your beautifully framed spa and that perfectly placed mug on the cap!