



Swimspa and fitness pool installation Guide

Installing a Catalina Swimspa or fitness pool is very straight forward but we recommend good planning. This will ensure your installation will proceed with the minimum of fuss.

There are very few things that take such little time to plan and install yet will bring so many years of healthy fun and enjoyment.

These are some of the key areas you will need to consider before installation:

1. Location – Is the swimspa going outdoor or indoor? What should you be aware of? Do you intend to install above ground, part or full in ground or indoors and will it fit into the chosen area? Indoor installation - there will be the need to consider heating and dehumidification.
2. Delivery /Access - Can you get the delivery vehicle to the site? Will you need a crane and can a crane get access?
3. Ground preparation – what size and type of base is required? Drainage? How much space should I leave around the swimspa?
4. Electrical and heating options – general recommendations
5. Service and maintenance
6. Bather access, steps and safety
7. Covers and their removal
8. General

For more information please print off our pre delivery installation guide found in the download section at www.catlinaspas.co.uk

1. Location

Give careful thought to the eventual position of your preferred model and take into consideration the location to the house (and any neighbours). Remember- privacy, noise, trees, wind direction, safety, (overhead cables), access to the finished swimspa, site drainage, fill and empty procedures, removal of covers, access to the equipment for service and maintenance and what the finished project will it look like.

Indoor installations - If the Swimspa is to be installed in an enclosure, either stand alone or attached to your home, you must consider the effects of humidity on the structure of the building. If this is not designed correctly the room environment will be uncomfortable to occupants and very quickly causes expensive damage to the building fabric. We have over 20 years experience with all aspects of indoor Swimspa and fitness pools installations and will be pleased to give you professional advice and recommendations. We offer our own range of humidity control systems specially designed for indoor swimspas and fitness pools. For more information please talk to your dealer or call our support team.

2. Delivery/Access

An important factor to consider is the route that the delivery vehicle will use to get to your home and if the same vehicle is to be used for offloading. Can it get adjacent to the prepared base leaving sufficient room (in the case of a Hiab) to extend the support legs? Many Hiab vehicles will reach 6M to 9M. The Catalina crane truck system can reach up to 25M. The distance and reach of a crane is totally dependent on the weight of your preferred Swimspa model. For more information on our unique delivery system please call us on 01980 611555



If the Catalina lift system is not suitable or the location has restricted access then a crane lift will be required. We have delivered by boat and helicopter! So we are confident we have a solution.

If you intend to arrange your own lift it is important to get professional advice. This should be in writing and always check the insurance terms, just in case there is a problem!

WARNING – TO PREVENT POSSIBLE DAMAGE TO THE SWIMSPA SHELL WE RECOMMEND THAT SPREADER BARS ARE USED WHEN LIFTING.

Please call 01980 611555 to arrange a site survey so we can assist you to schedule the installation so it all proceeds smoothly.

3. Ground preparation

Ground level - The Swimspa will require a suitable base. It might be possible to place the unit onto an existing patio or concrete base, providing it is flat and level. It is important to be sure it will hold the weight of the swimspa full of water.

Where a new base is required the ground should be prepared with a compacted hardcore sub base. We then recommend a minimum of 150mm concrete slab and depending on the ground condition we further recommend a layer of steel mesh is incorporated in the concrete. Always ensure that there is a minimum of 50mm of concrete covering above, below and to the ends of the steel reinforcement. The new slab must be flat and level and have good perimeter drainage. The base must always be larger than the swimspa model. Remember to incorporate any cable ducts.

Below Ground – Our standard swimspa and fitness pools have full depth cabinets and all models can be installed either part or fully below ground.



We manufacture a number of models specifically for part in-ground installations. These models have a specially designed reduced depth cabinet with approx. 610mm below ground. The below ground section is in a durable polyethylene fabric. The equipment is positioned approx. 635mm off the floor/base; the access doors are conveniently located in the end and or side panels. When installed 610mm into

the ground this will not require the extra 1000mm pit length to access and service the equipment. All these models still have the unique Catalina thermo pane insulation system.

If you intend to install either full or partial below ground the base must be concrete as detailed above with side walls to the desired height. If the side walls are to support any ground/earth then it is essential that the correct construction technique is used. This might require the walls and floor to be structurally designed. NEVER BACKFILL AGAINST THE CABINET OR POLYETHELENE SIDES.

If the surround of the Swimspa/ fitness pool forms an enclosure over the pit then it is a further recommendation to provide good ventilation to the air chamber. This is for the long term benefit for the equipment, electrics and structure. It is advisable to ensure the vents are rodent and insect proof. Any decking or surround must be fitted with floor access for maintenance.

The pit dimensions must be calculated to accommodate the selected swimspa model and to allow for future servicing and maintenance of equipment.

We recommend a minimum air gap of 150mm around all sides other than where the main plant and equipment is located to allow access for service and maintenance. This will need to be 1000mm. Check the swimspa model for equipment location as some models have end and side access requirements.

If a swimspa is being positioned close to a wall, future access to side perimeter lights will be difficult or impossible. If the swimspa is being part installed it is recommended to remove the cabinet screws below the deck or floor finish to enable the sections to be removed if required at a later date.

As we manufacture our swimspas it is possible to move or relocate access doors, please note - this is only applicable on some models.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR WHEN THE SWIMSPA PIT WILL NOT SELF DRAIN – the new pit **must be fully self-draining**. If a free flowing drain is not possible and ground water is present the pit will need to be fitted with an automatic sump pump, wired to its own power supply, ideally not the same supply as the Swimspa. The pump will need to be installed into a sump that must be sufficient size to fit the pump and be lower than the finished floor of the pit. As a guide a sump of say 300 x 300 x 200 should be sufficient but check the pump float switch will operate and not be restricted. Note in high water tables the pit will need to be tanked.

Please check with Catalina for access panel requirements for your swimspa model before the pit is designed and constructed

4. Electrical Supply and Heating Options

Your Catalina swimspa/fitness pool will require a suitable single or three phase power supply (Please see model Amp rating guide). The supply must be installed by a qualified electrician in accordance with current legislation.

It is a recommendation that the supply is isolated locally for any future service and maintenance. Once the work has been completed your electrician should provide you with a compliance and test certificate.

Our dual temperature models are fitted with dual controls and equipment packs and will therefore require either two separate power supplies run to the swimspa or one large one that can be terminated and split into two at the swimspa location.

The electricians must not get wet! If you are in any doubt we recommend you seek qualified help especially if you are planning to put the swimspa into a pit or below ground. Our service team can advise on this.

Power supply – All models have a 3kW inline electric heater (two 3kW in the case of dual temperature and Atlantic pool models). If the electrical loading of your preferred swimspa / fitness pool exceeds the available power supply we offer equipment modifications that will reduce the overall loading. Although our special swimspa control systems do not allow all motor equipment to start at once we can fit motor soft starts where start up Amps might be a concern to your local power supplier.

Other power saving options include the use of a heatpump(s) for water heating or heat exchangers to utilise either the domestic heating system or biomass boilers. It should be noted that dual temperature models will require 2 auxiliary heat sources. Independent gas or oil boilers can be used.

All models are supplied pre-plumbed for auxiliary heating. Where auxiliary heating is required we will fit a convenient heat change over switch to enable the unit to run on its integral heater(s) if required. Charges will apply to any 'special' upgrades.

In **ECO** or amperage control mode the heaters can be set to switch off when one or more high speed pumps are running.

Please call our service team for more information

5. Service and maintenance of your Swimspa/Swimtrainer

The equipment and control systems of your Swimspa/exercise pool will require periodic service and maintenance and therefore must be accessible. All of our products are quality controlled and undertake rigorous factory testing.

If the unit is being installed into a location where full access to all sides is restricted, we recommend that to check no damage has occurred during transportation, lifting or maneuvering, the unit is filled and water tested on site before installation.

If in the event any future warranty/service work is required it is the responsibility of the client to ensure access is available to all components and plumbing. We only use LED lights this is due to their long life expectancy and low cost of running. However if one should fail service/replacements can only be fitted where access between the Swimspa shell and cabinet permits. Any warranty work can only be completed if full access is available.

6. Bather access

For above ground models we supply a range of 3 and 4 tread steps with side safety rails. These will be a similar match to the cabinet but it should be noted that as the steps are manufactured by a different supplier they will not be a perfect colour match to the Catalina swimspa cabinet. When designing your swimspa surround or concrete base you will need to allow sufficient room for the steps width and depth. The widths are either 910mm or 1900mm and the depth (front to back) is 920mm for 3 tread steps and 1200mm for 4 tread. Please check with us as some steps dimensions might vary.

For below ground or partial below ground installations we supply surface mount grab rails.

Important - Any decking or floor surround finish should not pose a trip or entrapment hazard.

7. Covers and Cover Lifting Devices

We supply all our models with a lockable, tapered UL listed rigid high density insulation/safety cover. This might not be necessary or practical for some indoor installations. In these instances we can supply either a floating insulation cover that can be used in conjunction with a portable or fixed roller or specially manufacture a sections of rigid high density 50mm flat sectional covers with Velcro joining flaps.

When installing a swimspa into a building and the use of the standard rigid covers are preferred it is important to take into consideration sufficient space when used with either a base or top mount cover lifter. It is important to check the height of the lowest point of the ceiling above the swimspa to ensure it does not restrict the covers being folded back.

Swimspa and fitness pool covers are supplied, as standard, in the following configurations:

- Up to and including models 5.44M long will have 2 separate covers hinged in the centre. Where the covers meet in the center of the swimspa/pool they have a Velcro flap. (So where a model is 4.8M it will be supplied as standard with 2 x 2.4M covers both hinged in the centre making each folded section 1.2M)
- The Olympic 21 has a single hinged cover to fit over the spa section (approx. 2.5M), a single hinged cover at the opposite end (approx. 2.1M) and 2 separate sections each measuring approx. 650mm.
- The Atlantic 21 pool has 2 hinged covers on either end measuring approx. 2.6M and 2 separate centre sections each approx. 520mm

All the individual cover sections where they join have insulation pillows between them and are weather proofed with a Velcro secured flap.

For below ground or partial below ground installations where you intend to use a cover lifter please check the recommendations of your preferred cover lifter as some models require 600mm for the arms to operate. We offer a selection of cover lifters, please call for more information.

In addition we supply two other swimspa cover system options:-

The Covana – Allows you to access your swimspa with the simple turn of a key, removing the need to manually lift and store the rigid folding covers. With Covana, you can equip your swimspa with one of the best insulation covers on the market and then transform it into one of the most easily accessible ... all with just the turn of a key and in as little as 20 seconds!

Covana systems are completely automated gazebos which offer you maximum comfort, safety and intimacy. Made in Canada using the latest, state-of-the-art materials, these automatic covers are designed to endure the most rigorous climates and save you money on unnecessary water, heating bills and maintenance products. These systems are best designed into the initial installation plans but can often be retro fitted.



The Catalina Roll Top – Our deluxe spa and swimspa cover manufactures have developed a ‘roll top’ insulated one-piece swimspa cover, designed to insulate and seal the top of the swimspa or fitness pool, locking in the heat, saving energy consumption and cost.

The design enables one person to roll the cover off the swimspa in less than a minute and when in position has all of the heat saving benefits of a standard folding cover.

The Roll Top cover is finished with a UV resistant high grade 300g commercial grade vinyl. The insulation layer is achieved using EPE polyester closed cell foam which offers a high degree of flexibility. This material can withstand repetitive deformations and still maintain its dimensions, insulation and cushioning ability.

In addition to Catalina models we can offer both these cover system to fit most makes of spas and swimspas.



8. General

- Planning permissions and building regulations are not generally required unless the swimspa is going into a building. In conservation areas or if going in front of the building line it will be worth checking with your local authority if planning is required.
- At Catalina we do not mass produce our swimspas. Each swimspa is hand built and the cabinet hand finished, so dimensions might vary. If build dimension are critical please call us for accurate measurements.

Please contact your local dealer or sales@catalinaspas.co.uk or call 01980 611555.

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