

Whirlpool Tubs vs. Air Tubs: Differences Explained

Description

After a day youâ€™d rather forget, thereâ€™s nothing better than soaking in a warm, jetted bathtub for the three Rsâ€”rest, relaxation, and relief. And if weâ€™re being honest, itâ€™s a wonderful treat even if youâ€™ve had a great day. But, as you shop for that dream tub, youâ€™ll find yourself deciding between two common types â€” whirlpool tubs or air tubs. Both provide a luxurious spa-bathing experience with jets and bubbles to pamper your body. However, some notable differences between these two technologies go beyond superficial features.

Once you understand the main differences, youâ€™ll then be able to select the style thatâ€™s best for you, your needs, and your lifestyle. You can zero in on your perfect tub match by comparing critical factors like the jet and bubble action, noise levels, size configurations, and costs.

Whirlpool tubs use strong water jets to vigorously massage your body. The jets pull water from the tub and shoot it back out at various angles to target different areas. The power of the jets can be adjusted to your liking, from a gentle caress to a deep tissue massage. Most whirlpool tubs have between four and eight jets. The motor and jets are usually concealed under the tub.

Air [bathtubs](#), on the other hand, inject streams of air underneath the water rather than relying solely on water jets. Youâ€™ll feel the steady stream of air bubbles flowing over your body for a soothing effect. The bubbles are released through tiny air jets lining the bottom and sides of the tub. Air tubs tend to have more jets, often over 100, creating a bubble bath from every direction.

Considering Size and Depth

When [shopping for your dream tub](#), youâ€™ll also notice differences in size and depth capacities between styles.

Whirlpool tubs need to be deep enough to cover the water jets, usually around 18 to 22 inches. They tend to have higher walls to conceal the motors and plumbing. Some models allow you to sit partially reclined with your head resting comfortably. Given the deeper basin and seat configurations, most whirlpool tubs are [designed for one or two bathers](#).

Air tubs come in varying depths and sizes to accommodate soaking and stretching out. Models meant for two people range from 60 to 72 inches long but may be shallower at around 13 to 16 inches deep since there is no need to submerge the air jets. The shallow depth allows more flexibility in bathroom layouts and prevents you from needing a step stool to get in and out.

Considering Noise and Cost

Youâ€™ll also notice a difference in noise levels. Whirlpool tubs produce more noise, as the powerful jet motors churn up the water. Air tubs operate much quieter as the air pumps hum gently under the surface.

In general, most air tubs run around \$500 to \$3,500, with budget tubs starting under \$1,000. They're simpler systems with fewer mechanical parts. Whirlpool tubs range from \$1,000 into the multi-thousands, given the more complex water pumps and jet assembly involved. Luxury and custom models with advanced controls or multiple seats can run over \$5,000.

Choosing the Ultimate Relaxation Tub for You As you weigh your options, consider your budget, bathroom space, and desired relaxation mode. Do you want targeted massage action from water jets or gentle bubble envelopment from an air bath? Can you accommodate a large sunken-in tub, or do you need to save space with a compact rectangular model? Determine what's most important for your home and bathing needs. Then, let the relaxation begin once you slip into your new whirlpool or air tub!

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