



THE COVER COMPANY, INC.

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How to Measure for a Spa Cover

When measuring for a spa cover, always keep in mind that a cover that is slightly bigger than your spa will fit fine, but one that is too small may not! If in doubt when measuring the length and width, round up.

Always measure your spa directly. While the manufacturer, model and year will often provide enough information, we recommend measuring as well in order to avoid any confusion. If you have an existing cover that fits properly, you can use it to *double check* your measurements, but do not measure the old cover only.

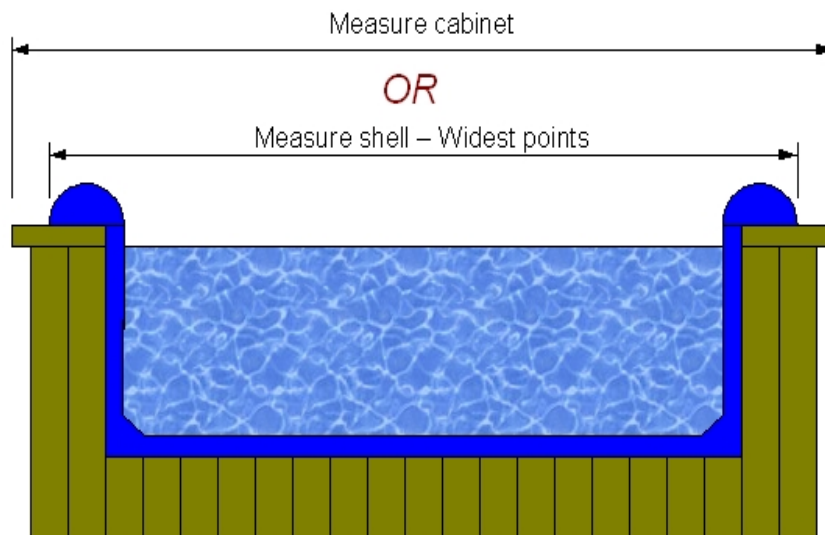
Determining Overall Cover Size

There are three basic cover styles, depending on your spa configuration, and your own preferences.

- 1) The most common style covers just the acrylic shell of the spa.
- 2) If you prefer, the cover can extend to cover the top of the cabinet as well (see diagram below).
- 3) In the case of an in-deck gunite spa that is not raised at all, you will need to measure to the inside edge of the coping, and 4" will be added on all sides in the manufacturing process.

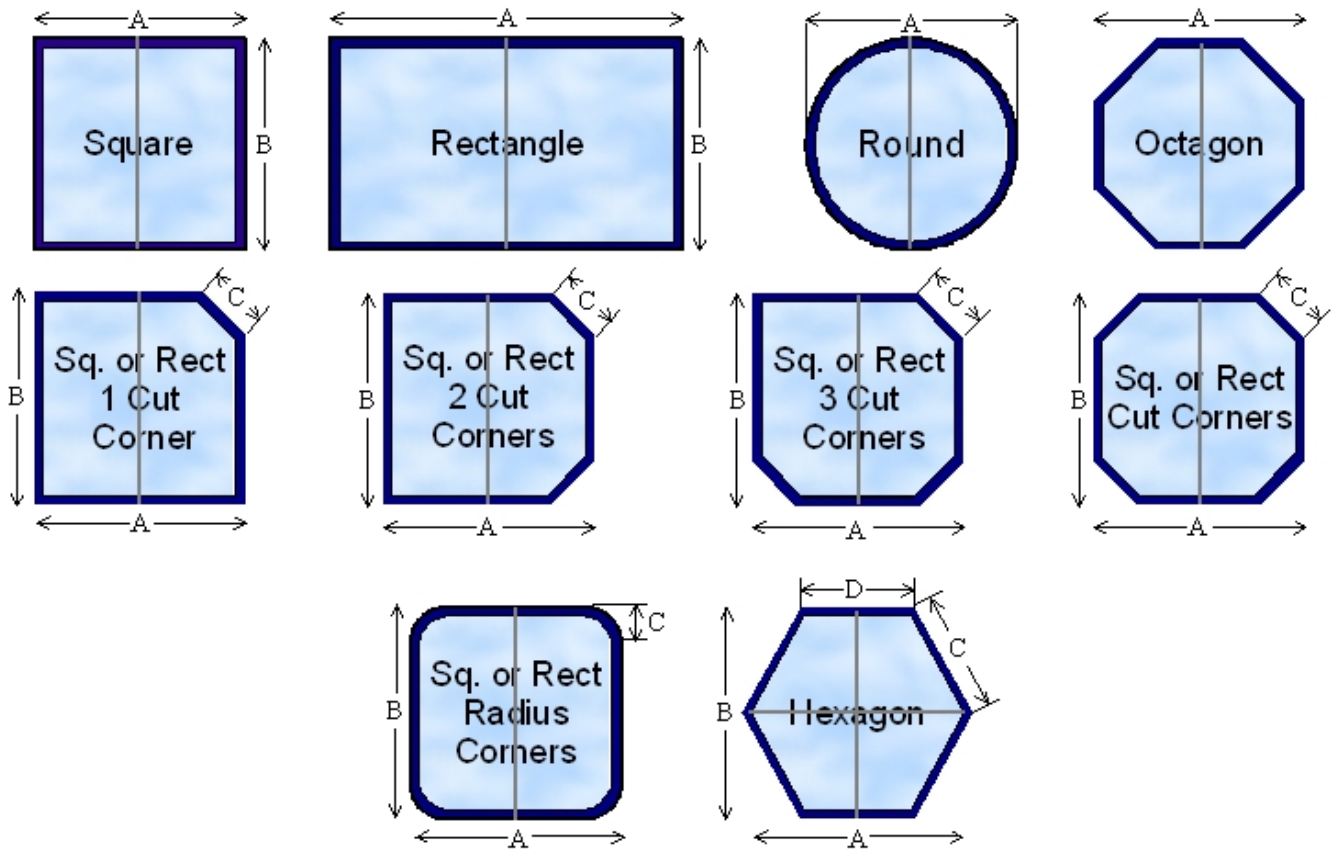
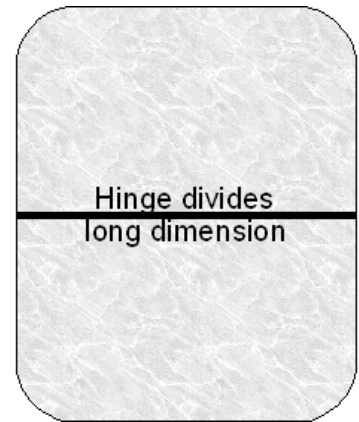
The first two styles will be manufactured in the same manner, and will have the same performance. Generally, which one you order is a matter of preference. However, if your cabinet is over 96 inches in either direction, but your spa shell is less than 96 inches, we strongly recommend covering the shell only. (Covers over 96" require additional work and expense). If you have an acrylic spa set in a concrete or wood deck, then your cover will only be made to the size of the spa shell.

Of course, there will always be special cases. If you feel that your spa does not fit a standard configuration, call us to discuss it.



Shape and fold direction

There are several typical spa shapes (shown below). All of which are measured in the same manner. In the case of rectangles, or any spa that is longer in one direction, the fold, or hinge, will cut the long dimension of the spa in half (see right). You do not need to measure anything for this, only to make note if you want the fold to run the other direction (lengthwise).



For all shapes, when measuring the spa shell, measure the widest point on the spa at the very outside of the overhanging rim. See the diagram on page 1. If you are unsure of a measurement, always round up on the overall size to the nearest 1/2”.

Square or Rectangle

Simply measure the length and width. For rectangles, the longer dimension will be the “A” dimension on our order form. See the sections on measuring radius and diagonals for corner measurements.

Round

Rounds will only require one measurement, no need for hinge direction.

Octagon

Be sure to measure ALL sides of an octagon as well as the “A” dimension for all (4) widths. If all four “A”s are the same, and all (8) sides are the same, this will verify that it is in fact a true octagon. If so, you don’t need to include a corner measurement, but you can. If they are not all equal, you probably have a square with large diagonal corners.

Hexagon

Hexagons may have all equal sides, or possibly four equal “C” sides and two equal “D” sides, which will parallel each other on opposite sides of the spa. Measure all sides, and the “A” and “B” as shown on page 2.

Square or Rectangle with 1,2 or 3 cut corners

Measure these the same as any other square or rectangle, but measure all corner lengths, mark the corner locations, and if there is a preference, indicate the desired hinge direction.

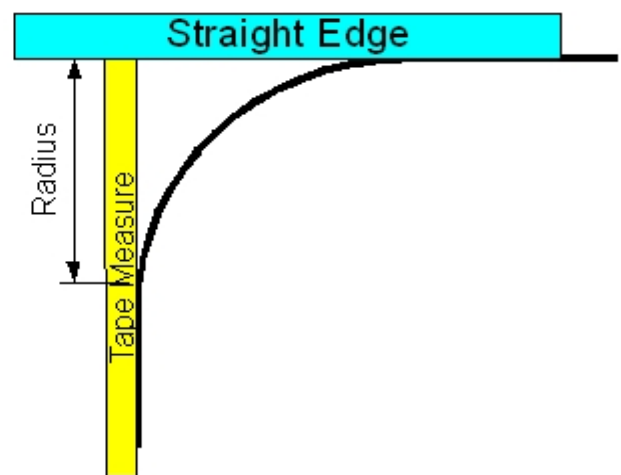
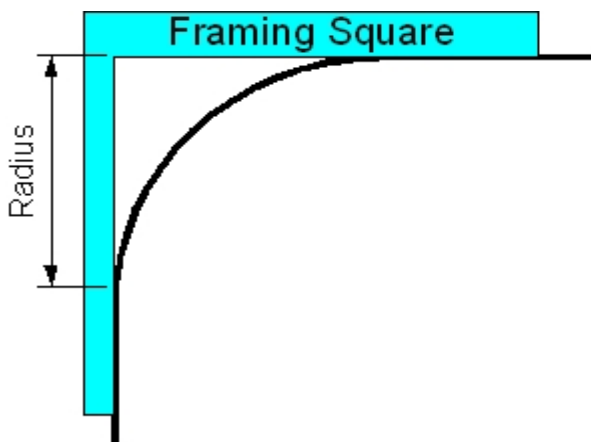
Freeform/Curved Wall

For spas that are freeform, or are any special shape, a template of the shape should be made from heavy plastic sheeting. In the case of a spa that is flush with a deck or patio, the AB measuring method may be used with a sufficient number of points to make an accurate layout. Contact us for more information on this.

Measuring Radius Corners

Always measure a radius corner on the spa itself, not from an existing cover. You will get a much more accurate measurement from the spa. You will need a framing square. If you do not have a square, you can use any long straight edge, such as a yardstick, and a tape measure or another yardstick. Using the framing square, align both edges with the straight sides of the spa. Now simply measure from where the curve starts, back to the inside corner of the square. Similarly, with a straight edge and tape measure, align the straight edge along one straight side of the spa, and measure from the start of the curve back to the closest point on the straight edge. See below.

Note: If in doubt, *lean toward a smaller radius*, and *round down*, never up. A smaller radius will provide more material at the corner, while a cover with a radius that is too large will not have enough material to cover the corner properly.



Diagonal Corners

Diagonal or “cut” corners are simply measured across the face of the corner, **NOT** with the square method used for radius corners. Like radius corners, though, lean toward the small side if in doubt, and round down.

Skirt

The standard skirt length, if no length is specified, is 3”, but it is best to measure and specify how much skirt you require. The style of cover will determine how much skirt you will need.

- 1) If your spa is in a cabinet that is larger than the spa, and you are only covering the spa shell, then you need to measure vertically from the top surface of the cabinet to the top of the spa.
- 2) If your cover will extend to the edge of the cabinet, you will measure vertically from the top surface of the cabinet to the top of the spa, and **add at least ½”**. If you have a top rail that you want the skirt to cover, then instead of ½”, **add the thickness of the top rail plus ½”**.
- 3) If your spa shell overhangs the outer edge of the cabinet, measure vertically from the lowest point of the spa overhang, to the highest point of the spa, then add ½” typically, though you can make this skirt longer if you wish.
- 4) If your spa is *completely flush* with the deck (i.e. gunite in pool deck), then you will not require a skirt. In fact, a skirt will interfere with the proper fit.

Tips To Remember

- When measuring **overall size**, bigger is better. A cover that is too big will fit better than a cover that is too small. Round up.
- When measuring **corners**, smaller is better. A smaller corner dimension will provide more material. If in doubt, round down.
- Always measure all sides of the spa, and all corners, especially for octagons, hexagons, and spas that have some, but not all, cut corners.
- If you have a preference for the direction of the hinge, make note of it on the order form or your drawing, especially in the case of a hexagon, or square/rectangle with some, but not all, cut corners.
- Always measure the spa itself. Don’t take measurements from an old cover. If your old cover fits very well, you can use it to verify the measurements you got from the spa.
- Don’t hesitate to call The Cover Company if you have any questions.