FLASH

November 2026

Flash 26-02-FL

Hot or Cold Tub Bonding

It's come to Electrical Safety Authority's (ESA) attention, incorrect industry information regarding the identification of portable and permanently installed hot or cold tubs. This differentiation is of significance since bonding requirements, set in Section 68 of the Ontario Electrical Safety Code (OESC), are applicable to permanently installed hot tubs as described in Bulletin 68-8-* Bonding of swimming pool, hot tub, and spa.

All hardwired hot or cold tubs are considered permanently installed and must comply with the applicable bonding requirements of the OESC. Photo F1 shows examples of what is considered a portable and permanent hot tub.

Why bonding matters:

Bonding helps maintain conductive parts at the same electrical potential, reducing the risk of electric shock when people enter, exit, or use a hot or cold tub. Conductive perimeter surfaces, including concrete and pavers when wet, can contribute to this hazard.

Photo F1



Permanently connected equipment defined by the OESC means equipment that is electrically connected to the supply by means of connectors that can be accessed, loosened, or tightened only with the aid of a tool. A hardwired connected hot or cold tub is considered meeting the OESC definition of a Permanently installed swimming pool

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Portable hot or cold tubs are designed for use other than in a fixed position and receive power through a factory supplied flexible cord or cable with an attachment plug. OESC Bulletin 68-8-* identifies portable hot and cold tubs, as cord connected and rated no more than 125 V and 15 A (based on the product standard CSA C22.2 No. 218). Use them according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Some manufacturers have provided a letter which is not aligned with current OESC requirements. Such documentation will not be accepted by the ESA as an exemption from the requirement.

Direction:

- Apply OESC Rule 68-058 and the latest ESA Bulletin 68-8-* when planning and installing a permanently installed hot or cold tub. Select ESA Bulletins can be found at https://esasafe.com/electrical-products/bulletins/
- Apply guidance from Table B4 Bulletin 68-8-*. Depending on the installation, perimeter protection may use bonded reinforcing steel, a copper ring, or qualifying nonconductive surfaces.
- The replacement of a hot or cold tub does not require the installation to meet the requirements of Rules 68-058 3) a) or 3) c); however, it is recommended to use one of the methods listed in Table B4 to mitigate any potential issues with stray voltages.

Before installing a hot or cold tub or constructing its surrounding surfaces, consult a Licensed Electrical Contractor in Ontario locating one through https://licensing.esasafe.com/contractor-locator-tool/ to identify the applicable electrical and bonding requirements.to identify the applicable electrical and bonding requirements.