Recommended Foundations

A full Tubby is heavy, and it stays heavy for years. Get the base right before delivery day and you will never think about it again.

PLAN FOR	IT MUST BE	ALLOW AROUND
Up to 2,000 kg	**Flat and level**	**1 m clearance**
Tub, water and occupants on a filled Grande	Not "near enough". Water shows up every millimetre	All the way round, for access and for the firebox

Three foundations that work

OPTION	BUILD IT	WORTH KNOWING
1. Concrete pad	100 mm min.	The gold standard, and the one we would choose. Let it cure properly before the tub lands on it; curing time varies with the mix, the weather and the size of the slab. A pad that has been rushed will settle and crack.
2. Paving blocks	50 mm min.	Good looking and kinder on the wallet. Level the ground with sand or compacted gravel first, or the pavers will settle unevenly and take the tub with them. Use pavers rated for vehicle loading if you can.
3. Crushed gravel pad	100 mm min.	Quick, cheap and perfectly sound if it is compacted properly. Build a timber frame around the edge to contain the gravel, otherwise it spreads and the middle sinks.

Decks need checking first. Most residential decks are built for people and furniture, not for two tonnes in one spot. If the tub is going on a deck, have a builder or engineer look at the joists, spans and piles before you order. It is a cheap conversation and an expensive surprise.

Before the truck arrives

1. **Check it is genuinely level.** Run a long spirit level or a string line across the pad in both directions. A tub sitting out of level will hold water unevenly and stress the shell over time.
2. **Check the drainage.** Water leaves the tub every time you empty it, and on a wood-fired tub that is every few days. Make sure it has somewhere to go that is not into your house, your neighbour's section, or back under the pad.
3. **Check the access route.** Measure gateways, paths and corners, and count the steps. Tell us early if the route is tight — some sites need a HiAB truck to lift the tub into place, and that is arranged in advance, not on the day.
4. **Check what is overhead and underfoot.** Wood-fired tubs need clear sky above the chimney and nothing flammable near the firebox. Electric tubs need the power outlet close by; a shorter cable run often means a lower amperage plug and a cheaper install.
5. **Leave working room.** Around a metre of clearance all round lets you load the firebox, pull a filter cartridge, oil the cedar and get to the drain without dismantling your garden.

> **Siting a wood-fired tub?** The firebox throws sparks and drops hot ash. Concrete or gravel under the ash box is a requirement, not a preference — never decking, bark or dry grass. The full detail is in the wood-fired how-to guide and in our terms of trade.

Not sure which option suits your site, or whether your ground will take it? Send us a photo and a rough measurement at info@soaknz.com and we will tell you what we would do.