

over accidents involving small children, or the perceived cost and hassle of upkeep may put buyers off. This means that the money may be better invested in an extension, but they are not nearly as much fun. A swimming pool is undoubtedly a great addition for your forever home, or if you plan to rent out as a holiday home.

There's also a new pool on the market – natural pools that are little more than deep lined garden ponds planted quite heavily with reeds that help keep the water clean, making them pretty much self-sufficient. These pools offer a natural look that can easily be planted, but will require a minimum size.

If a pool isn't for you, how about installing a hot tub? As we discover more and more of these in holiday cottages the demand to have one at home is on the increase – as we look for ways to make use of our gardens all year round: you've not lived until you've lay back and celebrated the New Year in a sea of bubbles (glass of bubbly in hand, advised but optional). These wonderful tubs come in all shapes, sizes, and materials – from blow up, plug in and go ones for just a few hundred pounds that can be bought from garden centres, to luxury teak-enclosed spas that can comfortably seat a large family without accidental footsy in the bubbles.♦



The modern outdoor spa comes in all shapes and sizes and are easy to fit like this Canadian Spa Toronto 5 - 6 Person Hot Tub. Try softening it with its own deck or lots of lush tropical planting. Stockists: diy.com

*'When it comes to adding value to your home, the jury is still out. While for some a swimming pool will add a wow factor that allows you to charge a premium, fears over accidents involving small children, or the perceived cost and hassle of upkeep may put buyers off.'*



A very cool old-style hot tub: the Naked Flame Eco LovTub is lovingly handcrafted from premium wood with stainless steel. Perfect for small spaces and designed for couples. Installs in 30 minutes and heats in 30-40 minutes. Makers say it will last 20 years. Stockists: boutiquecamping.com



Water should form a part of your garden - even if its not big enough for a pool. The relaxing sound of trickling water will help you relax - and drown out your neighbours. Solus Water Bowls are sophisticated, elegant with scuppers available in different finishes including brass, stainless and copper. Stockists: solusdecor.co.uk