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BATHING

Martin Heady of MGH Building Solutions (a member of tradesman website RatedPeople.com) on how to look after your hot tub in winter. 'Pick a model designed to withstand harsher weather. Also ensure your hot tub comes with a tightly fitting cover: an important safety aspect, this will help keep the heat in and keep the water free of garden debris.

'In winter you will need to keep a close eye on the temperature of the hot tub to make sure heat balance is maintained. Ensure the hot tub is always properly covered to keep the heat in and the weather out.

'Keep an eye on the water level – if the spa loses too much water, the pump might shut down, which will stop the heater from running and could cause your spa to freeze.

'If you plan to turn it off, make sure you speak to a professional. You will need to make sure it is properly prepared to stop the water freezing and causing damage.'