

## Spa

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On a rainy night, however, the lack of covering can be an adventure. Some people really enjoy soaking in a hot bubbling tub beneath a light drizzle. Others could do without it. If it would only snow in Eugene, I would be at the tubs in a heartbeat. The upcoming summer nights surely will be a perfect fit for a leisurely soak.

Onsen also has two large spas in the back, which hold up to six people each. The remaining 12 standardsized pools accommodate up to four. It would be nice if there were more large pools, as these fill up quickly. Each of the spas is complete with hydro-jets that rotate, pulsate and pummel your back into Silly Putty.

I know what you're thinking because it is exactly what my parents thought when I told them I had gone hot-tubbing. They immediately assumed a trip to the confessional would be necessary to purge me of whatever scandalous deeds I committed or witnessed.

Get your minds out of the gutter, folks. The Onsen staff will let you know right away that they pride themselves on being a family establishment. They insist on maintaining a quiet, tranquil atmosphere, so they ask patrons to leave the parties at home. Alcohol and drugs are strictly forbidden. Unlike other hot-tub rental businesses, none of the rooms have stereos, preventing stereo wars. The employees are extremely friendly, but they will become less so if customers cause any disturbance for other visitors. Both times I visited, I didn't hear a peep from any of my neighbors above the bubbling water and hum of the spa jets.

Before I arrived, I was very concerned about cleanliness. I'm no hypochondriac, and what people do in their own units is their own business, family establishment or not. But I was happy to find the cleanliness impeccable. Each unit is cleaned and every tub is chlorinated after every use. The tubs boast a sand-filter system that processes the water out of and back into the tub six times over the course of an hour, ensuring clean water throughout your stay.

Onsen's prices aren't bad either. An evening visit for two costs \$18 per hour. Before 5:15 p.m., the cost drops to \$15 per hour. Each addi-



Liz Carskadon for the Emerald

Onsen, a family spa establishment, provides a quiet, clean and ceiling-free atmosphere.

tional person costs \$4 more. Children under 12 get in for \$2. Towels are available for 50 cents, and selected soft-drinks for \$1 each. Sunday is Family Day, and children under 12 get in for free (minors are required to be accompanied by an adult). On Mondays, groups of four get in for the price of two.

Onsen is open from noon to 11:30 p.m. on weekdays and noon-12:45 a.m. on weekends. Onsen can be reached at 345-9048 or www.onsenspas.com. It is always good to call ahead for a reservation, especially on the weekends, when they tend to fill up quickly.

Onsen also sells Hot Spring spas for those who need a daily soak. After all, University finals are in five short weeks.

Contact the Pulse reporter at markbaylis@dailyemerald.com.



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