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# The Ultimate Guide To Pool Maintenance, Third Edition



## Synopsis

Harness All the Latest Technology, Equipment, and Methods Needed to Keep Any Pool or Spa in Top Condition! The Ultimate Guide to Pool Maintenance provides complete guidance on all the maintenance and repair tasks required to keep pools and spas working at peak efficiency. This Third Edition now contains information on the latest technology and equipment, together with Quick Start Guides and difficulty ratings for each procedure. Filled with hundreds of detailed illustrations, this updated classic features: A step-by-step explanation of each pool maintenance procedure with easy-to-follow photos Quick Start Guides to help readers start and finish each task quickly Tricks of the Trade to make each procedure easier Tools of the Trade highlighting parts and tools for each job An Easy, Advanced, or Pro difficulty rating for every task The following new material: new information on chlorine alternatives; a new section on maintaining saltwater pools; expanded coverage of pools with built-in spas Inside This Updated Pool Maintenance • The Pool and Spa • Basic Plumbing Systems • Advanced Plumbing Systems • Pumps and Motors • Filters • Heaters • Additional Equipment • Water Chemistry • Cleaning and Servicing • Special Procedures • Water Features • Commercial Pools • Winterizing • Basic Electricity • The Toolbox • 50 Things Your Pool and Spa Can Do for Our Environment • Facts and Formulas • Typical Pool and Spa Health, Safety, and Building Codes

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I purchased this book about 6 months ago, as I became a new homeowner, and pool owner, with

zero prior experience. I've waited until now to review the book because it's taken me this long to fully understand the process of maintaining my pool, with a lot of mistakes made along the way, and thus am better able to evaluate the information in the book. These mistakes included hiring a pool guy and relying on advice of "experts" at the pool store. Let's face it, if you're a pool owner, by far the most important topic to you is going to be chemistry, and that being the case, this book is a major letdown. I was expecting an "Ultimate Guide" to give an in-depth review of pool chemistry, but it's really more of an ultimate overview, with some gaping holes here and there. For example, the use of muriatic acid to lower pH and total alkalinity is discussed, but other than explaining the general effect of adding acid to lower pH and TA, doesn't go any farther than to "consult the instructions that come with the test kit". The list of chlorine tests is incomplete, as it doesn't even mention FAS-DPD, which is by far the most reliable and accurate chlorine test. There is a claim that electronic testers are the ultimate in accuracy. Want to test that claim? Go to 5 pool stores and see how many of their results match up. Get ready for a big laugh! There is zero discussion of the relationship between chlorine effectiveness and cyanuric acid level. There is only the suggestion to maintain a free chlorine level of 3 PPM. 3PPM FC at 0PPM CYA will eat the elastic of your swimwear in no time, but 3PPM FC at 200PPM CYA will be nearly useless, and result in rapid algae growth. The fact that the author even states that "algae is a constant battle" when the temperatures are over 65 degrees shows that he does not fully understand the chemistry of chlorine. Algae should never be a constant battle when your chemistry is properly balanced! The author makes numerous references to Total Dissolved Solids being a critical measurement to maintain pool chemistry. He states that once TDS reaches 2,500PPM that the pool must be drained. But wait, in the same chapter he talks about salt water generators requiring over 3,000PPM salt. Well, guess what? Salt is a dissolved solid! Not only is 3,000PPM salt absolutely not dangerous, but many SWG owners prefer maintaining a level closer to 3,500PPM. Again, you're way above 2,500 PPM TDS, and there is absolutely no reason to drain. The problem is not TDS but which dissolved solids are in your pool. You may only have 300PPM TDS, but if 200PPM of that is CYA, you're going to be draining your pool (like I did after I bought a high quality test kit to figure this out). While we're on the topic of salt, the author mentions several times that liquid chlorine (AKA bleach) adds salt. However, he neglects to mention the fact that ALL forms of chlorine add salt. These are concepts that are important to understand, but are completely glossed over. Basically, there is enough missing here, enough contradictions, and enough confusion that I cannot recommend this book to a home pool owner. There is certainly enough information here to be useful. I was able to break down and clean my DE filter with the help of the book. But do you know what was more useful? Going to youtube and watching a video of someone break down

and clean the same model of DE filter that I have. Conclusion: If you are a pool owner, don't buy this book. Open a web browser, and search for "trouble free pool". Click on the "Pool School" link. Read the Pool School. Read Pool School again. Go to the Forum. Ask questions. This resource is 100% free, and 100% more informative than anything you will find in this book, and pulls from the combined knowledge of tens of thousands of pool owners, industry experts, chemists, builders, and regular DIY homeowners, rather than the anecdotal experiences of a single pool guy. +2 stars because it looks nice on my coffee table

There is a good amount of useable information in this pool maintenance manual. It is not a technician level book but specific enough to be useful. It gives you tips on how to do common repair items, has a very good chapter on water chemistry, and goes over the basics of winterizing and summerizing your pool or spa. There are a lot of marginal quality black & white pictures to go along with the maintenance descriptions. I can't imagine it would be too difficult to put a little higher quality pictures in the book. If you are considering upgrading from the Second edition of this book to the third, I personally wouldn't. Is it worth \$20 ? Yes, I got enough out of it to justify the cost.

The author shares many years of wisdom in this book. I wish I bought it before I rebuilt my old impeller seals, because Terry shows exactly how to do this. You'll save hundreds or thousands by doing jobs yourself that the trade people are secretive about -- but the simple techniques are revealed in this book. Little tips & tricks are scattered throughout; for example how to extend the life of an o-ring when an emergency replacement is not immediately available; learn water chemistry from an experienced viewpoint; and learn how to patch plaster. This is the best pool book out there and it is comprehensive and doesn't skim over the details. Those who wrote the negative reviews are probably looking for a book listing the phone numbers of pool service companies rather than a do-it-yourself kind of book. The Ultimate Guide to Pool Maintenance is for people who want to understand how a pool works and it helped me a lot so I return the favor with this review.

The book was very well written and an excellent resource for someone who needs to understand how the different aspects of a pool or spa work. Certain readers may find some of the information too detailed. However, this reader being a new pool owner and an engineer greatly appreciated the comprehensive explanations that were provided. The text includes a plethora of information pertaining to pools, spas, and the support equipment. It provided a basic explanation of construction, repair, replacement, and maintenance of the structure and equipment. There are many

pictures and detailed diagrams. In addition, there are numerous quick tips throughout, which are presented in bold fonts and segregated from the main body of the text. Although the information that was provided was thorough, the explanations do not require a doctorate to understand. This reader would recommend the book to any new or existing pool owner with even a slight amount of mechanical understanding.

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