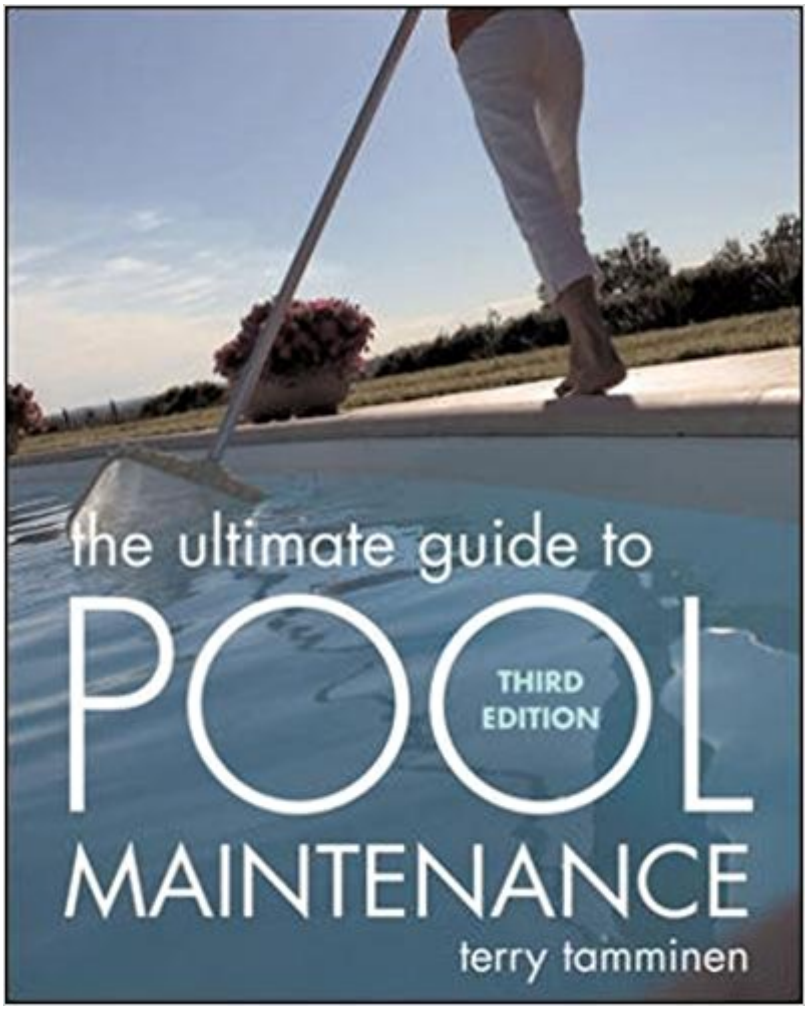
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The Ultimate Guide To Pool Maintenance, Third Edition



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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 Ã¢â ¬Å“BibleÃ¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬Â¢ The Pool and Spa Ã¢â ¬Â¢ Basic Plumbing Systems Ã¢â ¬Â¢ Advanced Plumbing Systems Ã¢â ¬Â¢ Pumps and Motors _ Filters Ã¢â ¬Â¢ Heaters Ã¢â ¬Â¢ Additional Equipment Ã¢â ¬Â¢ Water Chemistry Ã¢â ¬Â¢ Cleaning and Servicing Ã¢â ¬Â¢ Special Procedures Ã¢â ¬Â¢ Water Features Ã¢â ¬Â¢ Commercial Pools Ã¢â ¬Â¢ Winterizing Ã¢â ¬Â¢ Basic Electricity Ã¢â ¬Â¢ The Toolbox Ã¢â ¬Â¢ 50 Things Your Pool and Spa Can Do for Our Environment Ã¢â ¬Â¢ Facts and Formulas Ã¢â ¬Â¢ Typical Pool and Spa Health, Safety, and Building Codes

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Customer Reviews

Terry Tamminen is a leading expert on pools and spas, serving as technical advisor on a variety of water chemistry and pool technology projects for over 25 years, and as owner/operator of a pool/spa service business in California. He is the founder of the Santa Monica Bay Keeper and the San Diego Bay Keeper, activist organizations dedicated to preserving and protecting coastal resources in California. He is the author of several books, including The Ultimate Guide to Spas and Hot Tubs and Ultimate Guide to Above-Ground Pools published by McGraw-Hill.

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 cyuranic 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

I bought a house with an 20 year-old pool last year and needed a comprehensive guide to maintenance and repair. This guide provided everything that I needed and I pretty much read the entire book. The book does go into a lot of detail, which I appreciate but some people may find too exhaustive. The book provides excellent discussion of all the pool maintenance options available, along with pro's and con's, which was very helpful as I started performing my own pool maintenance. The book provides sufficient information for an experienced DIYer to perform many repairs; however, I still hire out most of my repair work due to time constraints. If you are looking for a complete and comprehensive guide to pool maintenance then this is a great book, if you are looking for a highlights book for basic pool care then there are likely better options available.

Our new house had a pool, so I ordered this to learn how to maintain it. It's a very readable guide as well as a good reference book. Since he has served many celebrities, the author's stories drive the points home. I had to laugh when he commented on how long Carol O'Connor's pool takes to catch prime. In my profession (health care) we can't comment on our "customer's" health due to patient confidentiality. It's refreshing that the "pool guy" can say what he wants about his customer's pools. The book has saved me a lot by allowing me to do these tasks myself. I was even able to replace

the pump for the robotic cleaner successfully.

I own my own swimming pool company in Connecticut and need to take to take my SP1 state certification exam. This is the book they have you purchase to study for the test. The book itself is a pretty boring read, but its not meant to be a fun book. The material is pretty well organized and presented in a clear and concise manner. Even if you’re not buying this book to take the SP1 exam it still has a lot of great material for pool professionals but its probably a little much for the average pool owner.

After having a pool company take care of my pool for 7 years, I was forced into maintaining the pool myself. The company when out of business and I was unable to find a suitable replacement. "Pool Maintenance" has seemed to answer most of my question and I’m currently maintaining my pool by myself. I found the book easy to read and understand. However, I am a retired Electrical Engineer which may of helped me in reading the book.

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