



The Savvy Woman's Guide to Owning a Home: How to Care For, Improve, and Maintain Your Home, Kitty Werner, RSBPress, 2006, 097103561X, 9780971035614, 239 pages. The Savvy Woman's Guide to Owning a Home: How to Care For, Improve and Maintain Your Home is becoming the manual for new homeowners, particularly for women. Research into the books currently available shows that there hasn't been a comprehensive book written as a basic homeowner's manual for the non-tool-savvy owner. Using the mantra, "Nothing is obvious to the uninformed," The Savvy Woman's Guide to Owning a Home explains how a house works, what the homeowner needs to do to keep on top of potential problems and how to save money doing so. It also covers moving, insurance, seasonal check-ups, yearly maintenance, saving for big ticket jobs, responsibilities of the homeowner, joining a community, finding schools, finding the right contractor for any job, dealing with pests and importantly, preparing for emergencies, whether weather-related or local. Her advice: It's okay to feel apprehensive about this ownership thing. You can do it. It doesn't take a genius to own and maintain a house. If you (or your partner) aren't handy with a hammer and nail, or comfortable with a power drill, so what! Either learn to do it yourself, befriend someone who is comfortable with wielding the appropriate tool, or learn to find the right professional to do the work for you..

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Drywall Magic , Glenn Raymond, Dec 1, 2009, House & Home, 123 pages. .

The Pocket Idiot's Guide to Home Inspections , Bobbi Dempsey, Mike Kuhn, 2004, House & Home, 186 pages. A definitive resource on home inspection that addresses both buyers and sellers alike explains how to troubleshoot all areas of a home, including structure and foundation

How to Do Just about Anything A Money Saving Guide to Over 1200 Skills and Household Solutions, Reader's Digest, Mar 1, 1997, , 448 pages. Brief articles provide information on cooking, safety, gardening, photography, household maintenance, child care, fishing, games, personal finance, hygiene, and car care.

Slow Food The Case for Taste, Carlo Petrini, 2003, Business & Economics, 155 pages. "Slow Food" is poised to revolutionize the way Americans shop for groceries, prepare and consume their meals, and think about food. The book not only recalls the origins, first

Marketing Without Megabucks: How to Sell Anything on a Shoestring , Shel Horowitz, Jun 18, 1993, Business & Economics, 384 pages. Tells how to create free publicity, effective advertising, and successful direct mail campaigns, and discusses name and logo selection, marketing strategy, customer service

Retailing Career Starter , Valerie Lipow, Jan 1, 1998, Business & Economics, 212 pages. Tells how to get started as a retail sales associate, and discusses specialized training, skills for advancement, the experiences of people working in the field.

I Made That! How to Make Money Making Personalized Stuff, Cindy Brown, Mar 1, 2004, Business & Economics, 192 pages. Cindy Brown takes a 'best friend' approach with this step-by-step manual for aspiring home-based business owners. In clear easy-to-follow instructions, she explains what you

The 2002 Collection , Sudbury Valley School Press, Jul 1, 2002, , 374 pages. Edited email exchanges written related to Sudbury Schools.

EMT career starter , Cheryl Hancock, May 1, 1998, Business & Economics, 192 pages. There are 600,000 emergency medical technicians in the U.S.--a highly sought after position and a top-paying, highly respected job. "EMT Career Starter" gives practical advice

The Virgin Homeowner The Essential Guide to Owning, Maintaining, and Surviving Your Home, Janice Papolos, Mar 1, 1999, Business & Economics, 444 pages. An introduction to the mysteries of homeownership offers advice on such topics as plumbing and electrical systems, how to cope with termites and burglars, and childproofing a home.

Accelerated Distance Learning: The New Way to Earn Your College Degree in the Twenty-First Century , Brad Voeller, Nov 1, 2001, Distance education, 251 pages. Brad Voeller earned his four-year, fully accredited college degree in six months, for less than \$5,000, by applying the revolutionary techniques of accelerated distance

The First-time Homeowner's Survival Guide A Crash Course in Dealing with Repairs, Renovations, Property Tax Issues, and Other Potential Disasters, Sid Davis, 2007, Business & Economics, 225 pages. Author and real estate guru Davis provides sanity-saving advice with this reassuring guide, so that novice homeowners can experience all of the joy, and none of the trepidation

The Homeowner's Diary , Doris Poloway, 2010, House & Home, 120 pages. A complete diary for your home. Great source for keeping and organizing all your information in one place. Space for your notes and photo's. Keep track of your renovations

The window of affordability a primer for Bay Area first-time home buyers, Steven A. Lyons, Jan 1, 1987, Business & Economics, 94 pages. .

The book is laid out in a sensible way and contains sidebars with lots of helpful hints and fun anecdotes. It's something I could easily see becoming a bible for the new homeowner, female or male, but is especially excellent for women because it avoids the jargon often used when such information is geared toward men.

I noticed that there isn't one homeowner's manual for women who don't want to do-it-yourself, but do need to know how to run and maintain their house. Sure, there are plenty of books on how to fix things, but what about the people who aren't handy with tools? While millions of women own their own homes, what is the percentage of those who know how to maintain the house, much less fix it themselves? Or how about the women married to men who can't use a hammer? Or the homeowners who don't have the time to DIY?

I am shocked by the good reviews this book is getting. I made this purchase thinking I'd learn how to "care for, improve and maintain" my home. Instead I found a bunch of non-specific reasons why I need to maintain my home and nothing about how to do so. What exactly are these reviewers referring back to? There is no information here that is complete enough to be useful. I am willing to bet that I never need to open this book again.

Anyone who has ever moved already knows most of the helpful hints contained in the first 1/3 of this book. We're talking about simple things like: change your address with the post office; find out how to get from your new house to your office; call the electric company and get the power turned on...

The real content is in middle third of the book. That's the section that's supposed to be about maintaining your home. Here's the gist: Houses have plumbing systems, call a plumber. Houses have electric systems, call an electrician. (Unless you want to change the color of your light switch, apparently as women we're all supposed to get giddy at the thought of light switches in different colors.) The repairs chapter is concentrated on which professionals to call in. Roof trouble requires a roofer... There are a whopping 2 paragraphs about doing repairs yourself. In these paragraphs Ms. Werner recommends purchasing a book about home maintenance!!! The seasonal and yearly checkup chapters are the only redeeming part of the whole book, although they are still lacking. These consist basically of a list of places to check for structural damage.

I devoured this book during my first week of home ownership and plan to read it again and again as I go through the first year of being responsible for the safe operation of many new appliances and appurtenances. Kitty Werner has written a comprehensive, easy-to-understand and even entertaining guide to all the things a house has that need to keep running for your comfort and safety. Her recommendations about fire extinguishers, chimneys, escape plans, routine maintenance and such are extremely valuable and eye-opening. She's done her utmost to keep the book relevant and useful whether you live in a city or out in the sticks. Thanks, Kitty!

This book is a godsend for people like me (and my husband) who live in a house, but don't really understand how it works. A house is like a small city. It provides you with water, heat, sewage disposal, shelter, warmth, and all that makes life cozy. But let something go wrong--then you can get desperate. Author Kitty Werner knows just what that's like. She talks about everything from packing up your valuables before you move to insurance (house replacement coverage, etc.), plumbing, electrical systems, repairs, dealing with pesky things, like ants and roaches, and coping with emergencies. She has chapters on such matters as finding a contractor (her father is a retired contractor) and being part of a neighborhood. And she writes about all this in a lively tone--it's as if you are having a personal conversation with the author. I rate this book very highly.

Kitty Werner's *The Savvy Woman's Guide To Owning A Home: How To Care For, Improve And Maintain Your Home* is a charming, energetic, informative, and extraordinarily practical guide to the hundreds of minor pitfalls and dilemmas that come with being a homeowner. From how to prepare for emergencies, to which tools you should keep on hand, to how to evaluate insurance, *The Savvy Woman's Guide To Owning A Home* covers it all in clear language easily understandable by the non-specialist reader. *The Savvy Woman's Guide To Owning A Home* is indeed so straightforward and packed with useful information that by no means should it truly be confined to the female gender - any male homeowner who is inexperienced in matters of upkeep should consider this guide as well. Very highly recommended.

There are a lot of how-to books aimed at inexperienced people in just about any field you can name these days, but author Kitty Werner's "The Savvy Woman's Guide to Owning a Home" is a first for women homeowners. In a light and humorous style, yet clear and detailed enough to be of real help, the book teaches the basics of home care, safety, and fitting into a new community. It covers everything from the move to a new location, to season and yearly "to do" lists, to dealing with a host of repairs.

The final 1/3 of the book contains more generalized information that about emergency planning, picking schools for your kids and canceling your mail when you go on vacation. Again, this is not really relevant to home improvement, and is mostly targeted at people lacking common sense or people who have made long distance moves. This is followed up by a few pages about remodeling. Guess what: you're supposed to call a contractor to do you're remodeling.

Kitty Werner has done something amazing here: she has taken pretty much everything that anyone needs to know before owning or renting a home, and found an easy way to explain fairly technical concepts to people with no technical knowledge. And she manages not to sound patronizing, even when explaining real basic stuff that most of us take for granted--because she doesn't assume you have prior experience.

The title is really too narrow for this broad and useful book. It's useful to both owners and renters, to both men and women. In fact, it would be the ideal present to buy a graduating college student just going out on his or her own--I sure wish I had such a book when I got my first apartment, and again when I got my first house. Don't let the book's somewhat peculiar layout choices get in the way. This book will benefit anyone who ever has to manage any aspect of finding and maintaining a place to live. Following Kitty's savvy advice will lower your bills, lower your stress level, and improve the quality of your life. I will ask the author if I can excerpt a chapter on my Frugal and Fashionable Living webzine.

This book is for people who think BEFORE they act and like Curious George, like to know a little about how things work with out being overwhelmed with technical details. People who buy this book AFTER they move into a home (for rent or sale) will find that they wished they had bought the book BEFORE the move. The author underestimates both the usefulness of her book and the wide audience (my Dad needed this book as well as myself before my first apartment). I think this would be a good read prior to searching for a home as buyers tend to get caught up in the emotions of the buy. This practical book brings you down to earth and makes you focus on basic items like the safety of home.

The index alone functions as a checklist that is worth the purchase price of the book as it lists the basics to consider in an existing home or apartment. Specific details change too rapidly to rely on absolutes, but this book gives you subjects to begin thinking about. I did find myself wishing the author had placed the 6 major categories (Before you Move, Know Your House, Those Inevitable Repairs, Emergencies, Community, & Growing Your Home) in between the 22 chapters in the index, but that is really picky - i.e. I'm someone who seldom gives a 5 star rating, not even to my own work!

Finally a book that is practical and not overwhelming to the new homeowner or even an experienced home owner. I wish I had had this book when I first became a homeowner. It is the perfect gift for someone just starting out or even someone who has been a homeowner for a long time. The book is so easy to understand and set up in a way that makes it easy to find what you're looking for. Men could use this book as well. My son thought it was great but thought it should have been titled The Savvy Men and Women's Guide to Owning a Home.

I was first drawn to construction when my father decided our side porch could make a dandy office for himself. Then seven years old, I offered my services by hanging around until he found something useful for me to do. Soon, I could name all the nails and hand him the right ones at the right time. I learned all the tools and their functions. I'm sure I took a few whacks at boards in my time, but with my slight weight at that age, I didn't make much of a dent, much less pound in too many nails. As a reward for my efforts, Dad made me my own tool box for my little set of tools. I still have it.

It wasn't long before I was fixing things as well as taking them apart. I was learning this stuff. One of my early jobs was working as the Assistant Buyer of Lamps at the Hecht Co. in Washington, DC When I had enough of the office, I could be found upstairs in the back storage creating new lamps from busted parts. My one-of-a-kind specials were put on display and sold. The tough part was when a customer wanted a match. Later, I was hired by a flooring company to sell flooring. I enjoyed playing around with the merchandise and ended up running the warehouse. I furnished my first townhouse with scraps of carpet, padding, carpet samples and plywood. Sold all of it when I moved to Germany for a year when I married Peter.

Back in the States, we moved to Vermont where we ran an old Vermont farmhouse as a ski lodge for a winter. Not only did we run out of water the first day we had guests (Christmas Day), but I had to cook for them as well. (I'm not a cook, my sister is.) Dealing with the fix-it issues of old dryers, temperamental heating systems, cranky plumbing, mazes of "put-together" pipes and wires, wells, and chimneys was an education in survival! Our guests didn't starve, either.

Eventually we bought our own house. As our family grew to include two children, the house grew. We fixed electric wiring, replumbed fixtures, finished off a bathroom, added a large addition, dealt with lightning storms blowing out our water supply, electric lines coming down, days without power

and water, and all manner of exciting events.

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