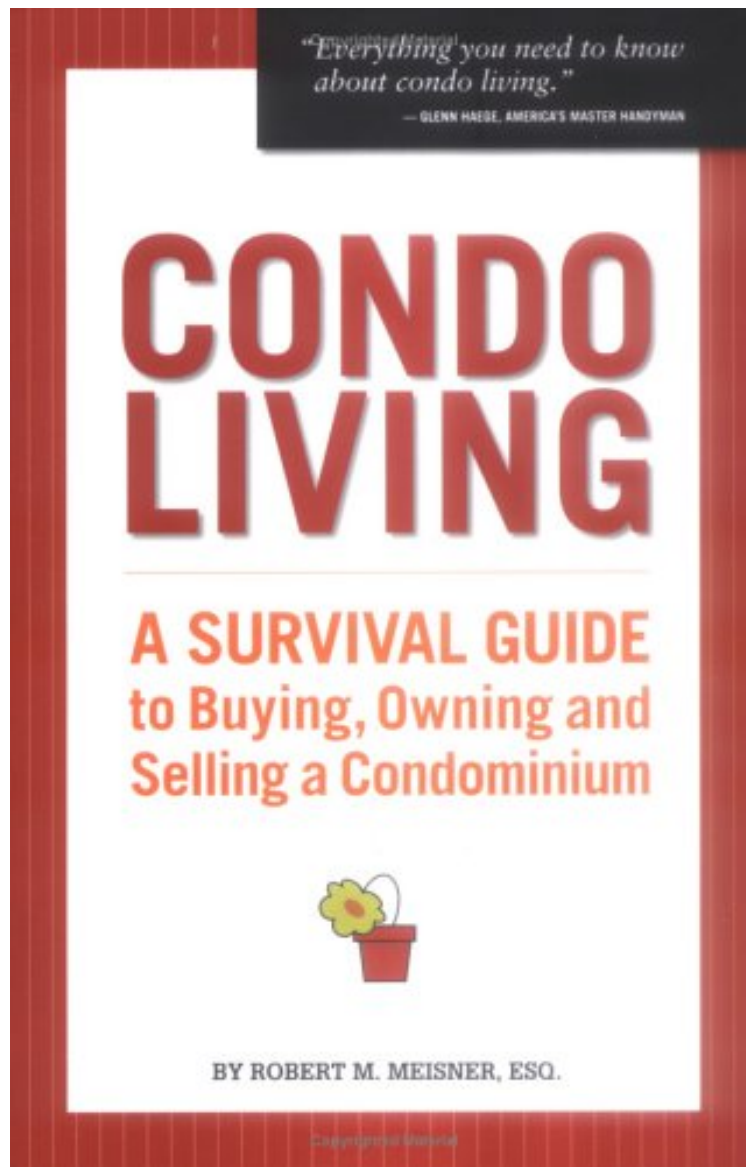


Condo Living: A Survival Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium

Robert M. Meisner

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Robert M. Meisner : Condo Living: A Survival Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Condo Living: A Survival Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium:

21 of 23 people found the following review helpful. Good information buried in long, boring, poorly organized prose
By Brian J. Dillard
Does this book give the prospective condo-buyer a lot of useful information? Yes. Does that matter if it's an incredible chore to slog through? Not really.
The author's credentials as a condo attorney are impeccable, but as a writer they're non-existent. He writes like a lawyer, with lots of useless hemming and hawing in lieu of clear, direct advice. Ever heard of a bullet point? Apparently not, as key topics are buried in long, detail-laden paragraphs and attempts at humor. Way too much space is devoted, for instance, to such common-sense advice as "don't raise a family in a condo development full of singles or seniors." Did I really need this guy to tell me that kids need playgrounds and back yards?
The organization into chapters proves almost totally arbitrary; information about time shares, vacation homes and other corner cases is mixed in with the key information applicable to the vast majority of the audience: namely, people who are buying or selling a condo as a primary residence.
The author has also didn't do much research beyond his own practice. He bases most of his anecdotes and specific examples on Michigan law, without only cursory asides about finding out about the laws in your own state and municipality.
I came to this book looking for easily digestible, intelligently organized information. I didn't want to have to wade through a broad overview of condo law to pluck out the bits that applied to me (a first-time home-buyer looking at purchasing a condo). By the end, I learned what I wanted to. But I felt like I was listening to a gasbag regaling me with the minutiae of his day-to-day activities when all I really wanted was the highlights.
2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Two Stars
By Chuck
I did not like it. Did not look good in it. I returned product and received credit promptly
2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Absolute Must Read Regarding Condos
By Eskychesser
Unfortunately - this book wasn't in print when I bought my site condo (2004) ... Seven years later and thousands and thousands of lost dollars, it all could have been prevented had I read this book. Fortunately - it wasn't too late. I was able to hire an attorney - stop the damage and force the association to run proper. When I plan to sell, I will use Mr. Meisner's advice from this book and do it right. My only regret is that I fear most people are like me - they read this book too late! Please don't let that happen to you!
I read this book cover to cover. I feel informed. It was NOT a boring read at all. The topic is so specialized that it may not pertain to a large audience. Trust me though - just like the book states - if you are considering buying, living in, or selling a condo - you really owe it to yourself to educate yourself in how the system works properly. The book has several references to Michigan (Where I'm from) - but overall I have enough education to know what to do if I were to buy a condo anywhere else. I feel very confident of that. In my case - my developer signed all the papers, etc. and never knew how to run a condo right. 20 years of it! Even more crazy is the co-owners followed like blind pigs for those 20 years - me 7! I had other co-owners tell me "You can't do that!" - when actually I could. Condo - life comes in many shapes and sizes. This book prepares you for that. Mr. Meisner's prose was fine - it was an easy read, but a lot of it pertained to what I needed to know - pertaining to condo life and rules. All I can do is thank the man for writing such a thorough book. It helped me so much and is an excellent education tool.
Again - if you are even thinking about a condo or interested at all in how they work/run - this is an absolute must read - an easy book to give 5 stars to. I would particularly recommend this book to real estate agents as well!

More than fifty percent (50%) of residential construction in the United States is in condominiums. Moreover, baby-boomers are buying condominiums as a second or primary home in increasing numbers. Almost everyone either lives in or has a relative who lives in a condominium. Meisner will share his expertise in how to deal with the problems of buying and selling a condominium. Who should read this book? Condo dwellers, boards of directors of community associations, developers and management firms can learn more about the unique problems of buying, selling, and living in a condominium, serving on a board, and developing a condominium. In the book Meisner shares his wisdom and wit accumulated from more than 35 years of practicing community association law. This handy guide is a must-read for anyone who has ever thought about developing, buying or selling a condo, or joining a condo association board. Americas Master Handyman, Glenn Haege speaks of the book: "Everything you need to know about condo living If you live in or are thinking of buying a condominium, you need this book." "Condominium living is not for everyone," says Meisner. "There are numerous factors to consider before taking the plunge." The book is divided into two parts. Part One covers the factors to be considered when selecting, buying and selling a condominium. Part Two demystifies the management and operations of condominium associations and their boards. Says Meisner: "Its time to consider how condominium associations are supposed to operate and how they actually do operate."

"If you live in or are thinking of buying a condominium, you need this book." -- Glenn Haege, America's Master Handyman
About the Author
Robert M. Mesiner is a practicing attorney and licensed real estate broker who is a graduate of the University of Michigan Law School. Meisner has been an attorney in Michigan since 1969 and is a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society. He has been an instructor in condominium and community association law at Cooley Law School and Michigan State University College of Law, and has taught condominium and community association courses for directors and officers, managers and developers of community associations throughout Michigan. He was a co-draftsperson of the 1978 Condominium Act in Michigan, and has concentrated his

Bingham Farms law practice in the area of community association and condo law as well as commercial litigation. Meisner has also lectured widely both statewide and nationally through the Community Association Institute, the Institute of Continuing Legal Education, and the United Condominium Owners of Michigan. He has been a widely published columnist with the Observer Eccentric newspapers for well over 20 years.