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## Has anyone tried the solar attic heat exchanger to heat the pool?

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Posted by [offthedeepend](#) ([My Page](#)) on Wed, Dec 5, 07 at 18:11

I stumbled upon this website [www.solarattic.com](#) and thought it was quite interesting and would lend itself good in my situation...i have big hip roofs and i know when they were re doing my a/c last summer it was 135-140 degrees up there. Was wondering if anyone tried this?

### Follow-Up Postings:



## RE: Has anyone tried the solar attic heat exchanger to heat the p

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- Posted by [wbeatty](#) ([My Page](#)) on Thu, Dec 6, 07 at 10:26

What a cool idea. a heat exchanger in the attic.



## RE: Has anyone tried the solar attic heat exchanger to heat the p

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- Posted by [joanneswimsct](#) ([My Page](#)) on Thu, Dec 6, 07 at 22:31

Hi offthedeepend  
I seem to remember a thread from back in the summer re attic heat exchangers. I have no idea how to provide the link but if you do a search you should find it. Good luck!  
Joanneswimsct



## RE: Has anyone tried the

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## solar attic heat exchanger to heat the p

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- Posted by [stephenchs1984 \(My Page\)](#) on Mon, Dec 10, 07 at 14:10

My friend in Thousand Oaks, CA has used one for over 10 years and loves it. He's never had any issues with the heater always brags about it when I go visit him. I don't have a pool so I don't need one

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## RE: Has anyone tried the solar attic heat exchanger to heat the p

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- Posted by [mitchcarnie \(My Page\)](#) on Wed, Dec 12, 07 at 23:28

A friend I work with in Sacramento had one in his last pool and said it did not work for him. I had researched it before I bought my solar panels.

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## RE: Has anyone tried the solar attic heat exchanger to heat

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the p

- Posted by [fisolarsystems \(My Page\)](#) on Wed, Feb 6, 08 at 18:15

Yes I have the PCS1 from solar attic. Works fantastic I have used it for 7 years I have referred at least 20 people to them. I know of at least 4 of them purchased and love it too. If you would like you can email me. evidently it keeps my pool around 89-92 degrees

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## RE: Has anyone tried the solar attic heat exchanger to heat the p

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- Posted by [tresw \(My Page\)](#) on Thu, Feb 7, 08 at 10:47

Excuse me for being skeptical, but...

- 1) This is your one and only post on these forums.
- 2) You have 20 friends that have swimming pools and were all interested in heaters? Seems a little far-fetched.

Now I read up on this heater a few weeks ago and really love the sales pitch on it. It certainly SOUNDS good, heat your pool and cool your attic at the same time. But despite doing a lot of digging on the internet, the only customer comments I could find were either in this thread or on the manufacturer's web site. Of course we can't depend on comments on any manufacturer's web site, so that leaves this thread. Two comments, one for and one against. A 3rd comment that I suspect is a plant. I think what the manufacturer needs to do (assuming the heater really does work effectively) is offer some really deep discounts to get some of these out there to people, then encourage those people to spread the word on the internet.

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- Posted by [bf-tx \(My Page\)](#) on Thu, Feb 7, 08 at 11:15

I am in the process of building a pool here in Houston. I looked into these units and decided the cost was not worth the gain.

Finally no rain, perhaps I will be getting my deck Friday.

My house being new has radiant barrier installed under sheathing and there are ridge vents. Having experienced the long summer of August to October in my house, the temp gains were not sufficient enough to heat the pool. Based on my required attic air changes through this coil, the cost of electric to run the fan and the increased load/current requirement of a pump to get the water up 2.5 stories exceeded the benefit. Add in the factor that at these hottest times I don't wish to be heating the pool anyways. Take today for instance, high of 65 out, my pool could have used heat but, my attic will only reach about 75 tops. Not enough to gain anything there. Besides that the cost of equipment, the install for me is cost prohibitive being that I should remove the radiant barrier, ridge vents and install powered attic fans to exhaust warm air when heat exchanger is not running or needed.

With some thought, my money would be better spent on putting 250'+ of continuous 2" Sch 80 PVC (grey) on top of my fence sandwiched between the cedar pickets, making it virtually invisible and gaining heat from my homemade solar loop. (HOA doesn't allow visible solar panels.)

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- Posted by [fsolarsystems \(My Page\)](#) on Thu, Feb 7, 08 at 14:17

Tres,

I said I referred the pool heater to at least 20 people in seven years thats not hard to do and yes 4 people (friends) own the system too. It seems your pretty hostile towards this unit. It was asked if anyone knows about the system and 7 years of use qualifies me to make a statement. " I am a very satisfied user"

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- Posted by [tresw \(My Page\)](#) on Thu, Feb 7, 08 at 14:29

Quote: "Add in the factor that at these hottest times I don't wish to be heating the pool anyways. Take today for instance, high of 65 out, my pool could have used heat but

anyways. Take today for instance, high of 65 out, my pool could have used heat but, my attic will only reach about 75 tops."

That is one of my concerns as well. The times that we would really be interested in heating the pool are the same times that the attic temps are not high enough to effectively transfer any heat. Our attic is vented and decked. No radiant barrier, but when it's cool outside it's cool up there too.

Quote: "(HOA doesn't allow visible solar panels.)"

You can expect that to change very soon. HOA's are going to get overruled by state and federal laws at some point when it comes to energy conservation. In fact, someone recently posted in another thread here that their HOA prohibited solar panels, but a new Florida law overrode the HOA and they are indeed installing them now.



### RE: Has anyone tried the solar attic heat exchanger to heat the p

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- Posted by [jamesolarattic \(My Page\)](#) on Thu, Feb 7, 08 at 14:59

All I have to say is wow nice discussion on our pool heater. I was invited here from flsol in this forum.

I would like to address a couple of concerns about this heater if I may.

1st It will not work in all applications meaning if your attic has no to low heat they PCS2 will not work and I advise using something else.

2nd Cost effectiveness our national average pay back for customers has been around 18-24 months. It's life design is 20 Years

3rd HOA restrictions. Some state laws forbid HOA to ban solar panels installations. However if you read the fine print the HOA have a right to deny installations of panels that are visible to the common traffic areas or any roof line slopping down were the panels are visible to the streets.

4th Solar is not a year round heat source you will need something else o provide heat in the winter months.

5th There is no doubt that there are cheaper types of solar pool heating systems. I would say they are the experts on their product line and know what their systems are worth.

Here is a link that might be useful: [SolarAttic World Headquarters](#)



### RE: Has anyone tried the solar attic heat exchanger to heat the p

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- Posted by [tresw \(My Page\)](#) on Thu, Feb 7, 08 at 16:02

Quote: "It seems your pretty hostile towards this unit. It was asked if anyone knows about the system and 7 years of use qualifies me to make a statement. " I am a very satisfied user"

SEARCHED FOR:

I'm hostile towards this unit? Read my posts again. I think I pretty clearly stated that I myself am interested in this unit and bothered to research it. I even contacted the manufacturer and got a price on it. In fact if you ping my posts you will find additional comments I've made in other threads about the potential benefits of this. My biggest concern is a lack of feedback from actual owners, and excuse me but I'm still not convinced that you are unbiased. No offense, but people don't just fall out of the sky with zero posts and revive months-old threads unless they have an ulterior motive. There is absolutely nothing wrong with you guys pushing your products, just don't pretend to be someone you're not.



## Other post

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- Posted by [trew](#) ([My Page](#)) on Thu, Feb 7, 08 at 16:09

I'll save you the trouble of a search, check this thread:

<http://ths.gardenweb.com/forums/load/pools/msg0118515822277.html>

Here's my post from that thread, read it and tell me if you think I'm being hostile towards the product:

Posted by [trew](#) ([My Page](#)) on Tue, Jan 15, 08 at 10:19

Huskyenduro, if you're serious about heating your pool then you should consider solar as well. We all know energy isn't getting any cheaper whether it's electric, NG, propane, etc. There are plenty of solar pool heating options out there that'll keep your pool warm and your carbon footprint to a minimum. There's also a rather ingenious attic pool heater available that transfers heat out of your attic to heat your pool water. It's reported to actually reduce your home cooling costs because it reduces the temp inside your attic as well as warming the pool water. This is the one I'm contemplating for my pool. Unfortunately I couldn't find much neutral feedback on it, but the idea is brilliant. More info here:

<http://www.solarattic.com/>



## RE: Has anyone tried the solar attic heat exchanger to heat the p

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- Posted by [widebody2](#) ([My Page](#)) on Tue, Jan 13, 09 at 13:48

Hi Guys,

My name is Patrick Kenney. I own and operate a swimming pool service out on the East end of Long Island- [Patrickspools.com](#) and I also own [Longislandsolarpools.com](#) where I sell the solarattic units. My clientele is strictly wealthy Hamptons homeowners who use these homes as a vacation home. My customers are all long term service customers. I install these systems on the homes of my clients.

You can take that for what it is worth. I would not install a system that did not perform well on one of my clients' homes because I would either have to deal with an unhappy customer for years to come or lose them altogether, which is 180 degrees away from my goal.

As long as you have the proper situation, which is clearly outlined on solarattic's

website the system does perform. My customers' pools average high 80s for the Summer. take into consideration that is in NY.

Another thing that should be pointed out is that when someone is happy with something they may or may not share that info with others. But you can sure bet that if you spend \$6k to have something installed on your house that simply does not work, that you will be making a stink about it. So search the web for those complaints because they are simply not there. I searched before I became a dealer.

Solarattic has also grown by over 80% in the past year...a year in which we have had a financial meltdown. That does not happen by selling a product that does not perform.



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- Posted by MERP ([robpropp@netscape.net](mailto:robpropp@netscape.net)) on Mon, Apr 20, 09 at 23:03

I think the solar attic heat exchanger is way overpriced. The unit is basically a heat exchanger and a fan. Yet the attic heat exchanger is priced higher than a heatpump that includes a compressor (the most expensive part in the heatpump). I think since you will save \$ heating your pool they justify charging such a high price for the attic heat exchanger.



**RE: Has anyone tried the solar attic heat exchanger to heat the p**

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- Posted by [widebody2](#) ([My Page](#)) on Thu, May 7, 09 at 14:22

I disagree completely. The price could be easily justified even if it were doubled or trippled. The payback period on a SolarAttic system is faster than any other form of solar that I know of. You get to eliminate the electrical cost of running attic fans, reduce air conditioning costs, and eliminate any type of cost associated with heating your pool, which would be staggering maintaining a pool at 85 degrees for an entire season using a heat pump or propane/oil. Check out the cost comparison charts at the right of this page: <http://www.longislandsolarpools.com/solar-attic-pool-heater.shtml>

If you really want to learn about pool heating check out the PDF file under the

comparison charts with the title: Guide to Pool Heating. There it will explain how to create a good pool heating environment as well as give you the formulas to really calculate pool heating costs using the different methods. If you really sit down and do the math its plain as day that heating a pool using a heatpump or especially propane is too expensive...its litterally like burning money. Heatpumps draw 30 amps. That is 5 times the electricity that the solarattic draws and the heatpump gives you no cooling benefits on the house.

Where I live, at the current rates of propane it costs \$227 to raise a 20 x 40 pool by 15 degrees....that is not maintaining that temperature, that is only achieving that temperature, then to maintain that temperature for an entire weekend will cost you over \$500. Again I will state: "Just like burning money". How can you enjoy a pool when in the back of your head you know that every minute you spend in that pool costs you \$10...I couldn't!

So now the cost of the SolarAttic starts to make a little more sense. Especially considering that it qualifies for a state tax credit in many states, making the price about the same, or even less than a heatpump:

[www.dsireusa.org](http://www.dsireusa.org) state solar tax incentives

Yes a SolarAttic is basically a heat exchanger with a fan on it. I hate to sound sarcastic but it is slightly more involved than just that. The SolarAttic now has dual blowers mounted on one axle inside the unit. What you may fail to realize is that these blowers are not your typical fans. You can feel a very strong breeze from these blowers a good 50 feet across an attic. No regular fan is doing that, especially while drawing such a low amperage. These blowers achieve this high air flow, all while causing NO VIBRATION and very little noise at all. Again something a regular fan simply can not match. The SolarAttics contain a good amount of sound proofing technology behind them as well as an integrated water sensor to shut off water to the attic in the case of a leak.

People always question me on the possibility of one of the pipes blowing out and pumping water all over the attic. If the installation is done properly it is next to impossible for this to happen. The installations use flex PVC pipe in the attic with the only joint taking place inside the unit itself. Flex pipe can not blowout. Flex PVC burst pressure is 355 PSI @ 70 degrees and ten of your pool pumps combined could not achieve that PSI. You can hit flex pipe with a hammer, you can run it over with a tractor trailer, you can hang 500 lbs from it and it will not break.

Although extremely unlikely if installed correctly, the only location that could realistically leak would be at the joint inside the unit. The bottom of the unit is a self contained belly pan with a water sensor at the bottom. If any water leaks, the unit sends a signal down

to an automated valve which shuts off all water to the attic.

So again I will state that the unit is not overpriced and in fact I will go as far as to say that even at double the current price it would still be the best pool heater in the world, bar none.

Here is a link that might be useful: [Long Island Solar Pools](#)



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- Posted by Knunis ([knunis@aol.com](mailto:knunis@aol.com)) on Wed, May 27, 09 at 14:04

Does anyone know of someone in the Tampa/Apollo Beach area of Florida who could/would install a PCS2 pool heater?

We have a new PCS2 pool heater sitting in our garage but would much prefer it mounted in our attic and actually heating the pool water. We would appreciate any assistance. Thank you.



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- Posted by mike ([mkm38@comcast.net](mailto:mkm38@comcast.net)) on Sat, May 30, 09 at 0:14

This has been both interesting and entertaining reading. However, I think one of the most important topics has been missed. While i believe that the assumption that this is just a heat exchanger is absolutely correct, in regards to the unit being overpriced, there is only ONE reason that this price is NOT over priced.And it is NONE of the things mentioned by james@solar attic! This surprises me and concerns me alittle. As much as I am interested in this product, I am also interested why no mention of the coil construction is made ANYWHERE! The only component that would seperate this unit from an ordinary heat exchanger is the material used on the coil tubes : copper= unacceptable. Cupronickel or stainless steel tubes would be needed and would be the one factor that would elevate production cost. SO JAMES, WHATS IT MADE OF?



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- Posted by SunRay TX ([greg.smith@cityofsunray.com](mailto:greg.smith@cityofsunray.com)) on Thu, May 20, 10 at 16:37

Greg Smith  
City of Sunray  
PO Box 250  
Sunray, Texas 79086  
806 948-4111 806 948-4485 (fax)  
CITY OF SUNRAY  
SOLAR ATTIC

Installed two units in Treasure Island bath house/snack bar/pump room attic in 2008 for \$12,000 to supplement natural gas fired boiler for 117,000-gallon public pool. 2009 was first full season of operation (late May through mid August).

Average gas consumption for 2006-2008 - 2,560 mcf

2009 consumption - 1,639 (36% reduction from 3 prior year average)

Fuel cost savings

2009 - 921 mcf average savings x \$5.60 (2009 average summer retail rate) = \$5,157.60 (43% of equipment cost);

921 mcf average savings x \$9.12 (2006 -2008 average summer retail rate) = \$8,399.52 (70% of equipment cost)

Average Temperatures for Sunray, Texas

June - 61 low, 97 high

July - 65 low, 91 high

Aug - 65 low, 90 high

Maintained water temperature - 85 degrees

Without any supplemental heat (natural gas or solar) - 73-78 degrees

◆ Additional benefit - pump room where boiler is housed is normally 95 - 100 degrees; with Solar Attic, pump room is typically 85-90 degrees.

◆ Solar Attic continues to work during nighttime until attic temperature is cooled down to water temperature.

◆ Low electricity cost



**RE: Has anyone tried the solar attic heat exchanger to heat the p**

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- Posted by [goyom \(My Page\)](#) on Fri, May 21, 10 at 6:02

Wow someone dug up a really old thread!

BILLY MAYS HERE!

SHAMWOW!



**RE: Has anyone tried the solar attic heat exchanger to heat the p**

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- Posted by [poolguynj \(My Page\)](#) on Fri, May 21, 10 at 6:13

Great that you are getting these results. Thank you. While it's an old thread, actual numbers do help. I hope you continue achieve these results.

I have a homeowner in NJ who removed the system from his pool. I opened him yesterday. Winterizing was problematic since the unit was three stories up and nobody had thought about the need to draining it. Yep, and thats all I am going to say about that.

The following concerns still haven't been addressed however:

Termites still eat flex. Flex can collapse and kink, especially under suction. Flex can abrade if allowed to rub. These are the main reasons I don't use flex.

We still don't know what the heat exchanger is made of. If it's copper, it will leak eventually. It will inject copper into the pool, especially with the typical chemistry swings large pools, particularly commercials, they experience. Too much copper in the water will turn things green, be it light hair, decking, or the pool water. How it responds to salt pools is also relevant. How large is the heat absorption area? Telling me it cools the attic by ten degrees doesn't tell me much, like how big the attic is, roofing, ventilation, etc...

Enjoy the savings. I hope that they continue for you. I can't share the enthusiasm.

Scott



**RE: Has anyone tried the solar attic heat exchanger to heat the p**

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- Posted by [elyders \(My Page\)](#) on Tue, May 17, 11 at 10:14

I know this is an old thread, but I wanted to provide an answer to mike and poolguynj's question about the heating coils. They are copper.

From their own pamphlet it states:

"The heat exchanger system incorporates an energy efficient 3 tiered aluminum finned copper piped heat transfer coil..."

I guess that explains the short 3 year warranty, which is void if the pool is ever not between 7.2 and 7.6 ph. (I'm just curious how they would figure out that my pool got

above 1.6 or below 1.2 for a short period or not.)



## RE: Has anyone tried the solar attic heat exchanger to heat the p

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- Posted by [trader4 \(My Page\)](#) on Sun, Jul 17, 11 at 5:44

Regarding poolguynj's concerns, here's my input:

"I have a homeowner in NJ who removed the system from his pool. I opened him yesterday. Winterizing was problematic since the unit was three stories up and nobody had thought about the need to draining it. Yep, and thats all I am going to say about that. "

That isn't a issue with the solar attic unit, it's an issue with improper installation. Regardless of how high up the unit is, the unit is designed to

be installed in an attic which is accessible for winterization. To winterize it all you have to do is unscrew two unions at the unit, at which point about a quart of water runs out of the unit, easily collected in a 5 gallon bucket. You then pour in a quart of antifreeze, reconnect the lines and you're done. Otherwise, the rest of the lines get drained in the normal pool winterization process.

"The following concerns still haven't been addressed however:

Termites still eat flex. Flex can collapse and kink, especially under suction. Flex can abrade if allowed to rub. These are the main reasons I don't use flex. "

All that may be true, but it has little to do with the Solar Attic unit. I live in NJ too and Flex PVC is widely used on new pool installs. It's what one of the large pool companies used on my pool. IF there is a big issue with flex PVC, then it's going to exist on a lot of pools that routinely use it under stamped concrete pool decks for example. I don't disagree that I would use rigid PVC for those runs, but I don't believe this issue has anything really to do with the SA unit.

Plus, I don't see termites or abrasion being an issue at all. The pipes to the solar attic unit go up the side of the house and through the attic. If you've got termites there, then that is the problem, not the SA. And if you want to use rigid PVC for any runs for whatever reason, that's up to the installer.

As to the issue of flex collapsing under suction, again a non-issue because the SA goes on the output side of the pump system, not the suction side.

"We still don't know what the heat exchanger is made of. If it's copper, it will leak eventually. "

No secret there, it's stated that it's copper right on their website.

"It will inject copper into the pool, especially with the typical chemistry swings large pools, particularly commercials, they experience. Too much copper in the water will turn things green, be it light hair, decking, or the pool water. How it responds to salt pools is also relevant."

That's probably true if you let the pool chemistry get completely out of whack, but again,

you have to have some responsibility to properly maintain a pool. If you want to let your PH get totally out of range, then SA isn't for you.

"How large is the heat absorption area? Telling me it cools the attic by ten degrees doesn't tell me much, like how big the attic is, roofing, ventilation, etc... "

Those specs are on the website for anyone that cares to look. The performance of the heat exchanger I believe is around 60K BTUs with a 30 deg temp delta between attic and water.



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- Posted by [poolguynj \(My Page\)](#) on Sun, Jul 17, 11 at 7:59

Flex is still, IMHO, a poor choice of materials to use in most pool applications, regardless of who is using it. It gets used because it's convenient and doesn't require as much skill to install.

It isn't uncommon for pH swings to occur. If someone uses tablets to feed their pool, pH goes down typically. I hear people tell me "I just use tablets" all the time.

A 30 degree delta is going to create condensate, just as it does for an AC unit. More risk.

If the unit isn't elevated or the pool lines don't have enough straight pipe before the unions, good luck getting a bucket under the unions.

If you got 60K BTUS, a 20K gallon pool would take several hours to rise one degree. With overnight losses, you're taking two steps forward and one and a half back.

To suggest that these known situations are not the problem of the attic heat exchanger, while technically true, is like the ostrich sticking his head in the sand and thinking there is no danger. People get lazy. That is a fact.

Seems to me that the costs/risks/benefits ratios aren't there.

Scott



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- Posted by [billjoat \(My Page\)](#) on Sun, Feb 5, 12 at 6:35

Just got a price from Solar Attic. \$3300 They HAVE to be kidding but they weren't. My plan is to get a car radiator(1998 cherokee(low profile)) hook to a waterfall pump(3000gph)(just like the flow SA says they have, and the use only one of the existing 3 gable fans currently in use. Pull all the air from the house through one fan and at the worst, spend \$300 for pump and pvc/hose. ???



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- Posted by [poolguynj \(My Page\)](#) on Sun, Feb 5, 12 at 11:25

Wasted \$\$\$s. You won't pull enough BTUs to warm a 5 gallon bucket of water with either solution.

Scott

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- Posted by [ncrealestateguy \(My Page\)](#) on Tue, Feb 7, 12 at 6:09

If this is such a good heater solution, then why has it not been used to heat the home itself?

Even if it did work, I would never put a 3000 gallon an hour water pump in my attic.

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- Posted by [qwiksilver \(My Page\)](#) on Wed, Mar 21, 12 at 22:11

ncrealestateguy, why would anyone wish to heat their home in the summer?

Frank

---



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- Posted by [poolguynj \(My Page\)](#) on Thu, Mar 22, 12 at 8:19

The premise is to remove heat from the attic, ergo the house and to move the heat into the pool. The issues are, however, is there enough heat to move (nope) and do you feel lucky having 3000 gallons per hour flow over the inside of your house, risking anything and everything in the house that you own (I don't feel that lucky).

Scott

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- Posted by [gwiksilver \(My Page\)](#) on Wed, Mar 28, 12 at 23:35

poolguynj, do you have a link or some data that shows that there isn't enough thermal energy gained by attic spaces to support this concept? I realize that each home is different. I am seriously considering doing a diy version of one of these. I am not going to place the heat exchanger in the attic. I intend to bring the heat from the attic to the unit, which will be placed in my garage. My attic gets very hot in the summer since there isn't a ridge vent on my roof. There is no shade on my house and the roof faces due east/west. I have approximately 7200 cubic feet of space with black shingles, and I have a very hard time keeping my attic temps below 135 to 140 deg f in the summer. Just the other day I measured the inside temp of my roof on the west facing side to be 151 deg f, and that was in March with an ambient temp of approx 80 deg with full sun late in the afternoon.

My main concern with one of these heat exchangers is that I would outpace the thermal gain of my attic.

Thoughts?



### **RE: Has anyone tried the solar attic heat exchanger to heat the p**

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- Posted by [poolguynj \(My Page\)](#) on Fri, Mar 30, 12 at 15:33

While I don't have the data you requested, I think I can answer a few other questions that are pertinent.

- 1) How long is the water in the heat exchanger? A few seconds. This does NOT provide enough time to raise the water temperature appreciably.
- 2) How long does the plumbing need to leak before causing a disaster? Not very.
- 3) An attic without vents?

Scott



### **RE: Has anyone tried the solar attic heat exchanger to heat the p**

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- Posted by [gwiksilver \(My Page\)](#) on Sat, Mar 31, 12 at 17:08

Scott,

Data is good. Here's some:

- 1 - "How long is the water in the heat exchanger" - Less than a second at 40 GPM. You are wrong about that not being enough time to raise the temp of the water. The laws of thermodynamics would prove you wrong. Question: how long does water remain in a length of heat exchanger inside a PNG, LPG or Heat Pump pool heater? Here's a hint;

way less than one second. Water is one hell of a great sink for thermal energy. How is it that a heat pump or other pool heater can heat a pool, but a heat exchanger using hot attic air can't? Heat energy is heat energy, is it not?

I've done substantial research over the past few days and it would appear that there is enough thermal mass in my attic, on most days, to help keep my pool comfortable (86 - 92 deg). My calculations show that my attic has the ability to take on in excess of 300K BTUH of solar energy. That's a veritable endless supply of energy for my purposes. I'm sizing my system with a heat exchanger that is capable of up to 220K BTUH of heat transfer. The empirical data proves that heat exchangers are an excellent way to heat water, and vice-versa. Based upon your comment that there isn't enough heat in an attic ....., I was concerned that my project would be a waste of both time and money. My concerns were unfounded.

2 - No worries about leaks here. I have a handle on my controls and how to shut off the pool pump in the event of a leak. All this will happen automagically via my home automation system. No power due to a loss of power at the computer? Got that covered: my pool control will not operate when the computer loses power. Even if it weren't for the ability to shut off the pump within moments/seconds of a sudden pressure drop and/or a float switch being tripped, I'm placing the heat exchanger in my garage for a reason... If there were to be a leak, there would be much less damage, if any. My garage has one foot of foundation/brick from the floor up to the point where the sheetrock begins.

3 - Yes, my attic does not have a ridge vent. Notice I didn't say that there aren't any vents. The attic has gable and soffit vents. Those vents provide enough airflow to replenish the air drawn out by the fan I intend to employ.

Frank



**RE: Has anyone tried the solar attic heat exchanger to heat the p**

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- Posted by [poolquynj \(My Page\)](#) on Sun, Apr 1, 12 at 4:09

Frank, I worry for anyone with this system in the attic, or more specifically, with stuff under it. Automation doesn't do diddly when you aren't there to shut it off and everything gets wet. It really becomes a nasty insurance claim. Leaks happen.

IMHO, a normal, roof top mounted solar system is a far better system. It doesn't let water in the house, except for the valves/actuators to open and close and to relieve air, there are no moving parts so reliability is substantially higher, and it can't leak in the house, only down the rain gutter so your stuff is safe.

Scott



**RE: Has anyone tried the solar attic heat exchanger to heat the p**

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- Posted by [GeoWar \(My Page\)](#) on Wed, May 2, 12 at 20:34

Has anyone actullay had an attic heater leak? I would imagine this would really piss me off and I would post it everywhere all over the net. Why can't I find a single post about an attic heater leaking?

My neighbor has an attic heater and says it works great! We are in the process of plastering our pool and will know if our attic heater works by June.

Solar panels probably work great but I say they look funky. I didn't pay bucks for a pool to turn around and make my house look funky. You can't see my attic heater. I'll stick with my beautiful spanish tile roof.

And yes, I don't have to winterize in California.

Peace!



**RE: Has anyone tried the solar attic heat exchanger to heat the p**

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- Posted by [poolguynj \(My Page\)](#) on Thu, May 3, 12 at 7:53

Have you considered a heat pump? Then nothing is on the roof or in the attic. You will likely get a lot more BTUs too!

The heat exchanger is copper as far as I know. It will leak at some point.

I don't know how big the heat exchanger is. How many GPM will it allow to pass and at what pressure is that rating at? Is there an automatic bypass?

The head loss will be variable but significant.

Any flex pipe used underground can be subjected to termites. They don't have to be, and usually aren't, in the house.

Scott



**RE: Has anyone tried the solar attic heat exchanger to heat the p**

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- Posted by [Conserve1 \(My Page\)](#) on Sat, Feb 23, 13 at 21:26

Geo War - Did you end up installing the solar attic unit - and if yes, how has it worked for you/ what can you tell us about it?



**RE: Has anyone tried the solar attic heat exchanger to heat the p**

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- Posted by [acaciolo \(My Page\)](#) on Tue, Feb 26, 13 at 17:30

no matter how many auto shutoff and safety features there are, I would never want to

pump 25,000 gallons of water into one of my customer's attics! I read all the ways that leaks can't happen, but what if someone walking in the attic kicks a pvc pipe and cracks a fitting (like happened to one of our AC condensate lines in an attic?) Just too risky for me. a copy of the spe

Here is a link that might be useful: [my pool building company in allentown pa](#)

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 **RE: Has anyone tried the solar attic heat exchanger to heat the p**

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- Posted by [jacksonbird03](#) ([My Page](#)) on Sat, Mar 2, 13 at 4:22

Hey it is a good idea, heat exchanger with attic..  
i also tried at my level..  
those who have already used this will please give me some tips

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