

IN THE SWIM

# New gizmo makes pool brushing easier

**Question:** I have arthritis and find it hard to brush the pool with the force necessary to keep the brush head against the wall. Any suggestions?

**Answer:** Your answer is the Wall Whale. It is basically a pool brush with a spoiler on the front. The "whale tail" uses water pressure to force the brush head closer to the surface that it is cleaning.

This simple device is the brainchild of former pool-service technician Greg Blackwell of Keller, Texas. Six years ago, he cut a crude prototype from a plastic trash-can lid and mounted it with hinges to the top of his pool brush. Two years ago, he patented the concept and then started producing this item.

In early November, this product was shown at the International Pool and Spa Show in Orlando.

The suggested retail price is less than \$30 for the Wall Whale mounted to a nylon bristle brush and \$45 for the item mounted to a combination nylon and steel brush, says Debbie Blackwell, the



PAUL ROTH/SPECIAL TO THE SENTINEL

Wall Whale uses physics to keep its brush closer to the surface you are cleaning.

inventor's wife and business partner. The brush and Wall Whale are sold together as one unit through pool-supply stores.

Steve Montgomery of Orlando, who has one arm, discovered the Wall Whale. "What used to take 20 minutes of struggle now is about a six-minute, manageable task," says Montgomery.

Questions are answered by Paul Roth of Roll-A-Way Protective Pool Fence in Orlando. He is a member of the Florida Swimming Pool Association — Central Florida Chapter, an industry trade group. Address questions to In the Swim, Orlando Sentinel, MP-240, P.O. Box 2833, Orlando, FL 32802 or send e-mail to Homes Editor Terri Winefordner at [twinefordner@orlandosentinel.com](mailto:twinefordner@orlandosentinel.com). For a list of FSPA-member companies, call 1-800-416-6774.