

Piston Pump Water Maker Comparison Check List - Page 1

The following comparison chart is based on the three most popular piston pump systems. There are other systems available, this chart can be used to compare those systems to the ones listed here. The chart is a research tool only and the content was deemed accurate and factual. It is recommended to do your own verification of the information listed in this chart. This chart is meant to be used as an informational source. The chart lists aspects of each water maker system with a **PRO** (Desirable Feature) or **CON** (Deficient Standard Feature)

BRAND / PRODUCER	CruiseROWatermakers	CruiserServices	SeaWaterPro
MODEL COMAPARED	SM-30 / 30GPH	SC-40 / 35-40GPH	SWP 40 / 40GPH
Main Panel Standard Materials	(Anodized aluminum) Known to react to the stainless gauges-corrodes CON	(Non-metallic acrylic) Stainless with not react to contact with this material PRO	(Non-metallic Laminate) Stainless with not react to contact with this material PRO
Main Panel Standard Features	 Minimal Features 11" x 11.25" (Need to run AC voltage to and from the panel switch for the HP pump) (Product water diverter is a manual valve) (TDS panel meter is not standard-can be added where hour meter is located) (No Auto Flush system standard or optional for panel) CON	 Maximum Features 10.75" x 8" (All 12v or 24v wiring at panel, with remote relay control for both HP and Boost pump) (Standard TDS panel meter with motorized auto diverter valve-manual override at valve) (Standard Auto Flush system with digital timer on panel-programable for any amount of time and spans) (Manual purge function) (Manual prime function) (Standard HP hour meter) PRO	 No Features 6" x 6" (Both the HP and Boost pump control switches appear to be breakers) (Need to run AC voltage to and from the panel switch for the HP pump) (Need to run DC voltage to and from the panel switch for the Boost pump) (Pressure Control valve is described as a patented pressure valve thus it would be a proprietary part, valve was reported to be very noisy) CON
Boost Pump Standard Based on 10% production	 (Diaphragm Pump with added cooling fan 5gpm) (12v Amp draw 12-13) (12v Amp draw for fan was not listed) (Cast aluminum lower housing) CON	 (Centrifugal pump 13 - 29gpm) (316ss impeller and case design) (Continues duty rated off the shelf (12v Amp draw 9) PRO	 (Centrifugal 500 gph/60= 8gpm) (12V Amp draw 9+) (Separate controller) (Ports are reported to be G-1/2" (BSPP vs 1/2" NPT) Has external controller CON

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BRAND / PRODUCER	CruiseROwatermakers	CruiserServices	SeaWaterPro
MODEL COMPARED	SM-30 / 30GPH	CS-40 / 35-40 GPH	SWP-40 / 40GPH
Membrane Housings Standard Features	 Composite Housings (Anodized Aluminum end plugs and retaining blocks are standard) (No Stainless Upgrade is Listed) (40" Non Proprietary membrane element) (Stainless fittings and tube for flow connection) (Mounting blocks and straps included) CON	   Composite Housings (Stainless end plugs with stainless retainers come standard) (40" Non Proprietary membrane element) (Stainless fittings and tube loop for flow connection) (Mounting blocks and stainless straps included) PRO	 Composite Housings (Aluminum end plugs with rod retainers come standard) (Stainless housings and end plugs are available +\$500.00) (Stainless end plugs sold separately were not listed) (40" Non Proprietary membrane element) (Stainless fittings and tube for flow connections are available +\$95.00)  CON
High Pressure Pump Standard Feature	 1.6GPM General Pump (Stainless model Industry standard) (Fittings and PVR included) Note: This image is from their site and may not be an accurate depiction of the current model pump Made in Italy PRO	 1.6GPM General Pump (Stainless model EWM1615C Industry standard) (Fittings for connections included) Made in Italy PRO	 1.9GPM AR Pump (Plated stainless model) (Full Stainless upgrade is Available +\$500.00) (Fittings and connections included) Made in China CON
AC Motor 1HP Standard	 (Leeson Watt Saver 1hp 9.3AMP) Image of this motor could not be found with a standard C56 face. The assumption is they are adding this mount. Green Leeson paint (Not Epoxy) CON	 (CS-OEM label ECO-ULTRA 7.8AMP) Purpose made with epoxy paint coating. (Overload protection) (Weatherproof box) PRO	 (SWP-OEM label 7.8amp) Purpose made for marine use only- designed to withstand saltwater exposure. No Epoxy paint listed, unknown. (No Overload Protection) PRO

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BRAND / PRODUCER	CruiseROwatermakers	CruiserServices	SeaWaterPro
MODEL COMPARED	SM-30 / 30GPH	CS-40 / 35-40 GPH	SWP-40 / 40GPH
High Pressure Hoses Standard	 Supplied hoses appear to be a compression end connection rather than a JIC connection. JIC is a standard connection which is widely available. This would make these hoses a proprietary part. CON	 Supplied hoses were noted as JIC connections which can be found easily. Custom size hoses can be ordered as needed. PRO	 Supplied hoses were noted as JIC connections which can be found easily. Custom size hoses can be ordered as needed. PRO
Auto Flush Feature	 Not standard, Optional \$695.00 add on. Appeared to be an inline sprinkler valve with a secondary bypass valve, coupled to a timer device and relay for house water pump activation CON	 Standard feature included. Fully integrated with their system and located on the panel. Bypass knob is located on valve. Fully programable from the panel. A sperate relay of \$95.00 is available for turning on the house water pressure pump during flush cycles. PRO	 Standard feature included. Appeared to be a rebranded battery operated hose bib sprinkler timer. Not fully intregated and not powered by the house batteries. No house water relay method was mentioned. "No easy panel operated post run Fresh Water Flush" CON
Pickling / Cleaning Feature	 Two manual 3way valves determine water / flush or pickling solution suction. No check valve was seen to prevent sea water from the carbon filter if valves are not properly positioned CON	 Single manual 3way valve for pickle solution suction Check valve prevents back flow to Carbon filter. Layout indicates a greater amount of the system will have pickling solution. PRO	No pickeling valve access was seen within the system layout. Pickling video in the manual indicated that the boost pump is to be removed and put in a bucket for this procedure. CON

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BRAND / PRODUCER	CruiseROwatermakers	CruiserServices	SeaWaterPro
MODEL COMPARED	SM-30 / 30GPH	CS-40 / 35-40 GPH	SWP-40 / 40GPH
System Components	MAIN PANEL 11"X 11 1/4" HP PUMP HEAD & MOTOR 2-MEMBRANE HOUSINGS 2-MEMBRANES BOOST PUMP 2-PRE-FILTERS 1-CARBON FILTER 1-FILTER WRENCH 1-3' HP 3/8" HOSE 1-5' HP 3/8" HOSE 30' 1/2" GREEN TUBING 30' 1/4" BLUE TUBING 40' 1/4" RED TUBING 10' 3/8" ORANGE TUBING BAG OF MISC FITTINGS 3WAY VALVES	MAIN PANEL 10 5/8" x 8" PRE WIRED SWITCHES HP PUMP HEAD & MOTOR 2-MEMBRANE HOUSINGS 2-MEMBRANES BOOST PUMP 1-DOUBLE RELAY BOX 1- 2 STAGE PRE-FILTER 1-(CARBON FILTER WITH AUTO FLUSH VALVE AND SERVICABLE CHECK VALVE PRE ASSEMBLY) 2-FILTER WRENCHES 2-5' HP 3/8" HOSES 25' 1/2" GREEN TUBING 30' 1/4" BLUE TUBING 15' 1/4" RED TUBING 15' 1/4" YELLOW TUBING 6' 3/4"ID BRAIDED TUBING 4-3/4" HOSE CLAMPS 1-TUBE OF SILCONE GREASE PRE ASSEMBLED COMP: (STAINER WITH 3/4" BARB) (3/4" BARB TO CHECK VALVE TO TEE WITH FITTING FOR FLUSHING AND COUPLING TO BOOST PUMP) (TEE WITH FITTING FROM PRE -FILTERS FITTING FOR BOOST PRESSURE TO PANEL GAUGE CONNECTOR TO HP PUMP)	MAIN PANEL 6"X 6" HP PUMP HEAD & MOTOR 2-MEMBRANE HOUSINGS 2-MEMBRANES BOOST PUMP 1- 2 STAGE PRE-FILTER 1-(CARBON FILTER 1-SPRINKLER TIMER FLUSH 2-PRE ASSEMBLED TEES 2-CHECK VALVES 2-6' HP HOSES 1-12" HP HOSE FOR LOOP 10' 1/4" BLUE TUBING 20' 3/8" WHITE TUBING 20' 1/2" REINFORCED HOSE 4-HOSE CLAMPS TEFLON TAPE
Manual	NOT AVAILABLE ON THE SITE BY REQUEST ONLY	AVAIALE ON THE SITE EASY TO COMPREHEND GOOD ILLUSTRATIONS GOOD LAYOUT DIAGRAM PLUG&PLAY PROCEDURES	AVAIALE ON THE SITE EASY TO COMPREHEND GOOD ILLUSTRATIONS GOOD LAYOUT DIAGRAM SOME INCONSISTANT IMAGES WITH REGARD TO FITTINGS.
Service	PHONE NUMBER AND EMAIL LISTED ON SITE. NO MANUAL WAS SENT WHEN REQUESTED. LINKS TO VIDEOS LEAD NOWHERE. NO SHOPPING CART ON SITE TO PURCHASE SYSTEMS OR PARTS.	WHATSAPP LINK ON SITE OWNER ANSWERED WHEN PINGED AND WAS VERY HELPFUL . 7 DAY AVAILABILTY FOR HELP WHEN NEEDED. RESPONDED TO FOLLOW UP EMAIL WITHIN 10MIN. MANY VIDEOS ON YOUTUBE FOR THE PRODUCT AND HOW TO WATER MAKERS. FULLY AUTOMATED CART ON SITE OFFERED MULTIPLE PAYMENT METHODS	CHAT WINDOW ON SITE RESPONDED QUICKLY LARGE VIDEO LIBRARY WITH INFORMATION ON THE SYSTEM. FULLY FUNCTIONAL CART ON SITE TO PURCHASE SYSTEM AND PARTS. STONG MEDIA PRESENTS ONLINE-EVERY TIME YOU GO SOMEWHERE ONLINE AFTER DOING WATER MAKER RESEARCH THEY SEEM TO POP UP.

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	PRICE		
Price calculated to equal comparable features	\$695 AUTO FLUSH \$200 TDS METER ON PANEL \$495 AUTO DIVTER VALVE \$315 FLAT RATE SHIPPING \$7250.00 TOTAL – CON	AUTO FLUSH ON PANEL TDS METER ON PANEL AUTO DIVERT VALVE RELAY COMPONET FLAT RATE SHIPPING \$295 \$5795.00 TOTAL- PRO	AUTO FLUSH SPRINKLER TIMER INCLUDED. AUTO DIVERT WAS NOT AVAILABLE. \$49 TDS MONITOR \$500 STAINLESS PUMP \$500 STAINLESS UPGRADE \$95 STAINLESS LOOP \$300+ SHIPPING CALC EST \$5739.00 TOTAL- PRO
Warranty	3 YEAR	4 YEAR	2 YEAR
Total PROS vs CONS	PROS=2 vs CONS=12	PROS=14 vs CONS=0	PROS=6 vs CONS=8

Based on the research above the Cruiser Services CS-40 had the best price per feature ratio. The key factors for this outcome were the standard stainless steel end plugs on the membrane housings, the complete AUTO FLUSH system with panel mounted timer, Automated TDS panel mount meter with automated diverter valve, manual purge, manual freshwater flush and the non-proprietary components all in one location panel.

Sea Water Pro had a very attractive base price of 4295.00. However, it did not come with the same standard features as the CS-40 and even when upgraded with the available options which brought the price up to \$5739.00 it lacked automation for TDS. An aftermarket TDS / AUTO FLUSH combo panel is available from the Cruiser Services site for 1155.00, so this would bring the price up to 6894.00, which is 1099.00 more than the CS-40 and still would not have all the features in one place on the main panel. Another item that lacked was a pickling valve method, according to information within the online manual the boost pump was to be removed and placed in a bucket of solution to achieve this. The battery operated hose bib sprinkler timer being used for an auto flush feature would certainly be a concern, it appeared very similar if not exactly to a device available on Amazon: Their manual stated that this timer design could vary as well. If aluminum end plugs are ok why do they offer a stainless upgrade?

CruiseRO is a well-known system however when compared to the other two systems it did not come close to value. The fact that aluminum was being used for the membrane housing end plugs did not make sense. Their end plugs have been reported to not hold up-undoubtedly so!

While doing research the fact the original founder of CruiseRO (Rich Boren) had left and started a new company; Cruiser Services was brought up. One of the cruiser contributors to the data collection has one of the CruiseRO units. Rich had responded to this client that the reason for his leaving was a mutual amicable decision and that Rich wanted to move toward improving his original system with features he has wanted to add for some time. Rich has a reputation of being the best at customer service and providing 7 day accessibility via WhatsApp for troubleshooting. He teaches watermaker classes at boat shows, posts tech videos on YouTube and seems to focus on general cruiser watermaker education and assistance over being a pressure salesman. Per his website and the cruiser community he has real cruiser experience while he and wife raised two kids aboard a Force 50. I could not find any information about field experience of the current owner of CruiseRo or Sea Water Pro.

The information for this comparison is from research performed 6/2026 using the website data available at that time. Prices can change; materials can change. Recommend checking the data within the comparison chart with the current websites to ensure accuracy. This is a non-commercial comparison for use as you see fit. Feel free to download the chart.

The research chart should not be linked to websites for commercial use.