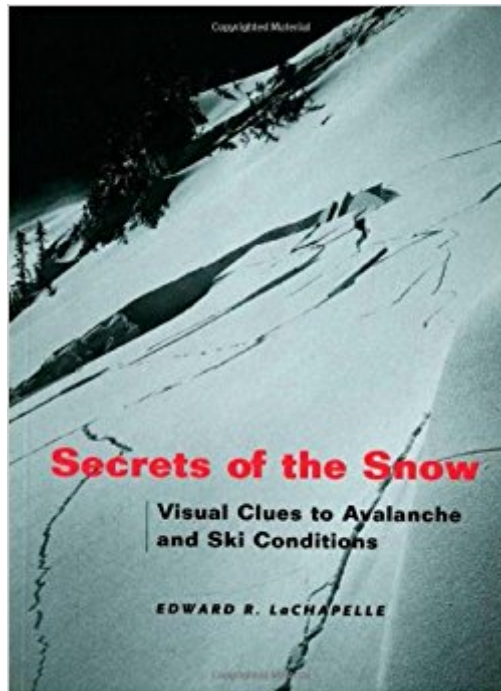




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Secrets Of The Snow: Visual Clues To Avalanche And Ski Conditions



Synopsis

The surface of fallen snow—its contours and texture—can tell the interested observer much about the forces that shaped it and about its stability and what it is likely to do. Will it be good for skiing or for packing as a snowball? Will it slide? Is it dangerous? *Secrets of the Snow* is an overview of the easily visible aspects of snow in the alpine mountain landscape, serving as a companion volume to the author's *Field Guide to Snow Crystals*, which examines snow at the microscopic level.

Describing visual snow features and textures arising from climate, wind-drift, layering, solar radiation, and melting, *Secrets of the Snow* explains how snow may be "read" for information on avalanche formation and suitability for winter sports. Closely linked photographs and text illustrate the shapes, forms, and textures found at the surface of winter snow covers; describe their origins in wind and weather conditions; and guide the reader in interpreting these features to predict snow behavior. *Secrets of the Snow* is essential for winter sports enthusiasts, mountaineers, and avalanche-safety specialists.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Edward R. LaChapelle is Professor Emeritus of Geophysics and Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Washington. He is the author of *Field Guide to Snow Crystals* and *ABC of Avalanche Safety*; co-author with Austin Post of *Glacier Ice*, and author of the original *USDA Snow Avalanche Handbook*. He began his snow career at the Swiss Federal Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research, and as a U.S. Forest Service snow ranger he developed many of the techniques of avalanche forecasting and control in use today.

Recommended to me by several back country skiers. This book has great pics and descriptions of snow conditions. It requires a bit of studying- but that's why I bought it- to actually learn something useful and this book will be a great reference.

An important read for a off piste skier.

This book is ridiculously short on details, and constantly contradicts itself. It is pretty much useless for learning about avalanches. You would be much better off taking an avalanche course.

Having had 20 years practical experience in the snow safety business I can assure any potential readers that buying this book is money well spent. So many books on avalanches tell us about snow, about weather etc, but fail to really come to grips with the "how to tell whats been happening and is it dangerous" lesson. The many visual clues that one has when looking at potential avalanche terrain are here very well documented and explained. Easy to understand. Highly recommended

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